

Science of Reading Cheat Sheet

This year you will be hearing a lot about the Science of Reading in our classroom! The Science of Reading refers to research that has been conducted over the past 20 years by reading experts & cognitive scientists! This research has shown us some of the best methods for teaching students to read.

Below are some terms you may encounter in your child's reading instruction this year:

- **Phoneme** – the smallest unit of sound represented by a letter or letters. There are 44 phonemes in the English language.
- **Grapheme** – the letter or letters that represent a phoneme.
- **Phonemic awareness** – the ability to identify, hear and manipulate the smallest sounds heard in spoken language, phonemes.
- **Phonological awareness** – the skill to identify, hear and manipulate any sound heard in spoken language. These pieces of sound can be rhymes, syllables, or phonemes.
- **Word Mapping** – the process of breaking a word down into its phonemes and writing the graphemes that represent the phonemes.
- **Heart Words** – high frequency words that have a “tricky part” that cannot be decoded.

Additional Resources:

[How Do Kids Learn to Read? What the Science Says,](#)
Ed Week



What Can I Do at Home?

The Simple View of Reading is a basic way to think about how to get our children reading. This multiplicative equation states:

Decoding x Language Comprehension = Reading Comprehension

Decoding is a child's ability to look at the letters & words on a page and turn it into speech.

Language Comprehension is a child's ability to understand the meaning of words and speech.

How can I help my child with decoding?

Discuss letters from speech to print:

- o Instead of saying, the letter a says /ă/, ask your child what letter represents the /ă/ sound?

Segment words to build phonemic awareness:

- o Choose a word and say it aloud (ex. cat)
- o Talk about the meaning of the word (Grandma has a cat with soft fur.)
- o Tap the phonemes of the word together (/k/-/ă/-/t/)
- o Ask how many sounds does the word have? (3)
- o Say the word together again (cat)

How can I help my child with language comprehension?

- o Read books together that would be too difficult for your child to read alone. Discuss vocabulary words and their meaning.
- o Use high level vocabulary words in your daily interactions.
 - o Ex. Instead of saying "It's time to **clean** up your toys", say "It's time to **tidy** up."

