

Phonics:

Buddy letter –

The letter Q has a buddy. It is the letter u.

Children are taught qu as one unit and sound.

Digraphs –

Digraphs are two consonants, that make one special sound. The most common digraphs are: sh, ch, th, wh, and ck. Students learn that one syllable words with a short vowel end with the letters ck, not c or k.

Bonus letters –

The letters f, l and s are doubled at the end of many short vowel words. They are called Bonus letters, and are marked with a “star” *

Examples of bonus letter words are less, pass, cuff, and will.

Blends –

Blends are two consonants that are placed together, and each letter keeps its own sound.

Blends include bl, fl, st, sp, cr, and tr.

R-Controlled Vowels –

Vowel sounds change when followed by an r as seen in words like car, her, sir, for, and fur.

Glued Sounds—

Glued sounds are vowel and consonant combinations that are taught as one whole unit.

For example am, an, all ink, and ung are taught as glued sounds. This is because it is difficult to hear all the discrete letter sounds, and the vowel sound is often altered.

Suffixes—

Suffixes are endings that can be connected with a baseword. Second grade studies the suffixes s, es, ed, ing, est, ish, able, ive, y, ful, ment, less, ness, ly, and ty.

Vowel Teams-

A vowel team is two vowels that come together to make one sound. Examples include ay as in play and oi as in spoil.

Closed Syllable-

A closed syllable has one only one vowel and must be followed by a consonant. A closed syllable features a vowel with a short sound as seen in words like met and got.

Open Syllable-

An open syllable has only one vowel and ends with a vowel. The vowel sound is usually long. Open syllables are found in the words me and go, for example.

Parent Resources
The FOUNDATIONS Rules and Language

Consonant-le-

The consonant-le pattern is used at the ends of words like little and maple. The e is silent.

Tapping-

Tapping is used only for words that are decodable. Using their fingers, students tap out the sounds that they see or hear to read and write them.

Trick Words-

Trick words are words that are sometimes called “sight words”. These words cannot be sounded out, as they do not follow phonics rules. Words like of, what, and they are trick words.