

Helping Your Child Learn Letters and Sounds

A guide to supporting early reading skills at home



OUR GOAL

We want **every kindergarten student** to know all their alphabet letter names and sounds by **December 1st**. To reach this ambitious goal, we need your help at home!

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

- **Letter Naming:** Recognizing and naming any uppercase or lowercase letter within a second or two.
- **Letter Sounds:** Mastering the 21 consonant sounds and 5 short vowel sounds. These are the core building blocks for reading.

HOW WE ASSESS PROGRESS

We check progress throughout the year to ensure every child is on track:

- **Kindergarten Entry:** We assess students at the start of the year to identify which letters and sounds they still need to learn.
- **Monitoring:** We use a tool called ESGI to regularly check your child's progress with letter names and sounds, helping us identify exactly what they need to practice next.
- **Letter Naming Fluency (LNF):** We measure how quickly and accurately students can name random letters.
- **Nonsense Words - Correct Letter Sounds (CLS):** Students read short, made-up words to demonstrate the ability to connect letters to their sounds. This helps us see how well they understand those connections as a beginning reader.

HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

Daily practice makes a big difference! Ask your child's teacher which specific letters they are working on, and then practice them together.

A Simple Way to Practice

If your child gets stuck on a letter or sound, try this quick 3-step trick:

- 1 **Show:** Say the letter name or sound for them.
- 2 **Trace:** Have your child trace the letter with their finger while saying it out loud.
- 3 **Repeat:** Do this three times, then come back to it in a few minutes to see if they remember it.

Make it a Game: Learning is more fun with games! You can ask your child's teacher for recommendations or check out the Early Literacy Skills page on our district website:

<https://www.ccsdut.org/programs/literacy/early-literacy-skills>

