

## Phonics

**Phonics is the ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent. This includes:**

- Recognizing print patterns that represent sounds
- Syllable patterns
- Word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and root words)



**Access a parent quick tip video on phonics activities:**  
<http://bit.ly/parentdecodingstrategies>

### **Common Consonant Digraphs and Blends:**

bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr, ng, ph, pl, pr,  
 qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr

### **Common Consonant Trigraphs:**

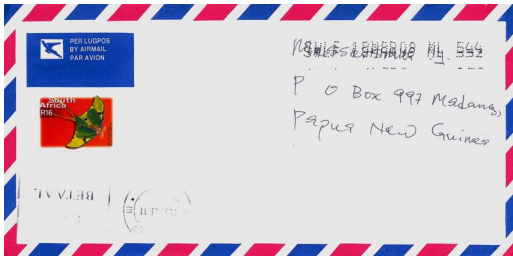
nth, sch, scr, shr, spl, spr, squ, str, thr

### **Common Vowel Digraphs:**

ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, eu, ew, ey, ie, oi, oo, ou, ow, oy

## Phonics Activities—2-3

- Make blend-sounds and have your child write the letters that match the sounds.
- Play word games that connect sounds with syllables and words (for example, if the letters "l-a-t-e-r" spell *later*, how do you spell *hater*? How many syllables are in *later*?).
- Write vowel and consonant digraphs, trigraphs, and blends on cards. Hold up the cards one at a time and have your child say the sounds (for example, the long e sound /ē/ for the vowel digraphs ea and ee).
- Writing words - Many children love to send and receive notes, and writing is a great way to reinforce phonics skills. Send your child notes in his/her backpack or place notes on the pillow. Have a relative or friend send a letter or email to your child. Whenever your child receives a note, have him/her write back. Don't be concerned about spelling. Instead, have your child sound out the words to the best of his/her ability.



- Hunting for words - Choose a blend and have your child hunt for five items beginning with that sound. As each object is found, help your child write the word on a list. For example, if the target sound is "bl", the child might find and write blanket, blood, blue, blizzard, blast.
- Hints for helping your child sound out words
  - First Sound - Have your child say the first sound in the word and make a guess based on the picture or surrounding words. Double-check the printed word to see if it matches the child's guess.
  - Sound and Blend - Have your child say each sound separately (sss aaa t). This is called "sounding it out", and then say the sounds together (sat). This is "blending".
  - Familiar Parts - When your child starts reading longer words, have him notice the parts of the word that he already knows. For example, in a word such as "presenting", your child may already know the prefix pre-, the word "sent," and the word ending -ing.
- Play "Memory" or "Go Fish" using consonant and vowel digraphs, trigraphs, and blends.

