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McKinley School

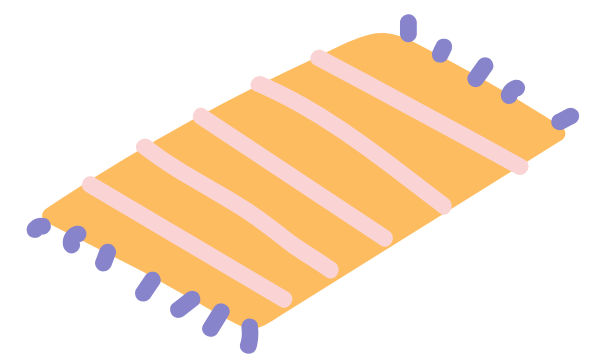
# BUILDING BLOCKS OF READING PARENT WORKSHOP

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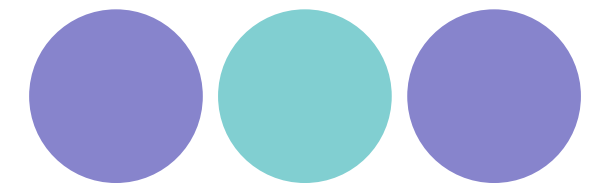
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Blend and  
decoding sounds.





# WORKSHOP INTRODUCTION

Together we can unlock the  
secrets of reading!

## Goals:

- Understand key building blocks of reading
- Learn activities to reinforce skills at home
- Gain resources to support your child's journey

# LETTER RECOGNITION

**Letter recognition is the ability to identify and name the letters of the alphabet, both uppercase and lowercase. It's one of the first steps in literacy**

- Forms the foundation for learning sounds (phonics) and connecting them to letters
- Helps children differentiate between letters and understand their unique shapes and functions

## Parent Tips

- Incorporate letter recognition into daily life such as pointing out letters on signs or books
- Use tactile methods, such as writing letters on sand or tracing them with fingers.

# LETTER RECOGNITION- ACTIVITY

## Find and Highlight

- Place game template inside of a sheet protector
- Have child use a dry-erase marker to highlight or circle the targeted letter

## Beginning Sound Matching

- Have game cards printed and cut
- To start, the adult will make the beginning sound of the picture, then they will say the word represented by the picture.
- Student will then have to point to the letter that represents the sound

## Practical Strategies

- Using letter cards you can also play hide and seek by placing the letter cards around the house and have the child find the letter indicated by the adult.
- Use everyday items to sound out the beginning letter and have child say the letter that corresponds to the sound.

# SOUNDS (PHONICS)

**Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the individual sounds in words. This skill is essential for decoding and spelling.**

- Children with strong phonemic awareness can easily learn to decode words, which is critical for reading fluency.
- It is tied to early reading success and improved spelling skills.

## Parent Tips

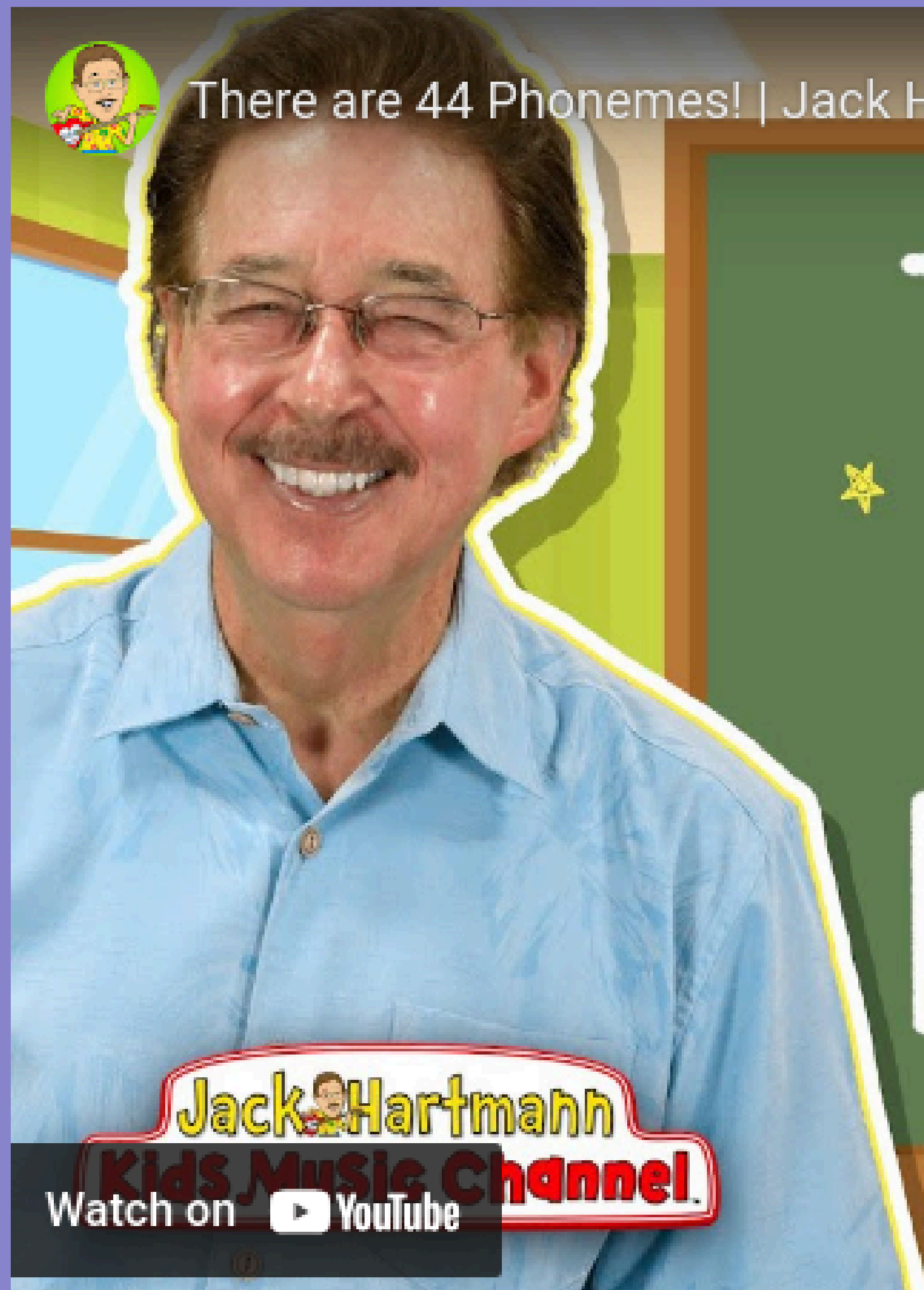
- Practice on segmenting words into sounds
- Practice sound repetition by using letter cards for example
- Focus on rhyming words through word families and alliteration to make sounds fun.



There are 44 Phonemes! | Jack Hartmann



Copy link



There  
Are  
Phonemes

44



Jack Hartmann

Kids Music Channel

Watch on YouTube

## 20 Vowel Phonemes / Graphemes

Phoneme (sound)	Examples	Graphemes (written patterns)	Phoneme (sound)	Examples	Graphemes (written patterns)
<b>/a/</b>	<u>a</u> pple	<b>a</b>	<b>/oo/</b>	mo <u>o</u> n, scre <u>w</u>	<b>oo, ue, ou, ew, u-e</b>
<b>/e/</b>	<u>e</u> lephant, bread	<b>e, ea</b>	<b>'oo'</b>	bo <u>o</u> k, cou <u>l</u> d	<b>oo, u, ou</b>
<b>/i/</b>	igloo, gym	<b>i, y</b>	<b>/ou/</b>	hou <u>s</u> e, co <u>w</u>	<b>ou, ow</b>
<b>/o/</b>	<u>o</u> ctopus, wash	<b>o, a</b>	<b>/oi/</b>	co <u>i</u> n, bo <u>y</u>	<b>oi, oy</b>
<b>/u/</b>	<u>u</u> mbrella, wo <u>n</u>	<b>u, o</b>	<b>/ar/</b>	sta <u>r</u> , gla <u>s</u> s	<b>ar, a</b>
<b>/ae/</b>	rai <u>n</u> , tra <u>y</u>	<b>ai, ay, a-e, a</b>	<b>/or/</b>	fo <u>r</u> k, bo <u>a</u> rd	<b>or, aw, a, au, ore, oar, oor</b>
<b>/ee/</b>	tree <u>, me</u>	<b>ee, ea, ie, y, e, ey</b>	<b>/er/</b>	he <u>r</u> b, nu <u>r</u> se	<b>er, ir, ur, ear, or</b>
<b>/ie/</b>	li <u>gh</u> t, ki <u>t</u> e	<b>igh, i-e, y, i, ie</b>	<b>/air/</b>	cha <u>ir</u> , pea <u>r</u>	<b>air, ear, are</b>
<b>/oa/</b>	bo <u>a</u> t, bo <u>w</u>	<b>oa, ow, o, o-e</b>	<b>/ear/</b>	spea <u>r</u> , dea <u>r</u>	<b>ear, eer, ere</b>
<b>/ue/</b>	tu <u>b</u> e, em <u>u</u>	<b>u-e, ew, ue, u</b>	<b>'schwa'</b> unstressed vowel close to /u/ as in tea <u>ch</u> er, the <u>,</u> pict <u>u</u> re		

# PHONEMES AND GRAPHEMES

**Phoneme:** The smallest unit of sound in a word

**Grapheme:** The letters or combination of letters that represent a phoneme (ie. “sh” in ship).

- Understanding the relationship between phonemes and graphemes helps children decode and spell words accurately.
- Builds a foundation for phonics instruction and reading fluency

## Tips for Parents

- Some phonemes have multiple graphemes (eg. /f/ can be “f” or “ph”).
- Regional accents may affect pronunciation.



# SOUNDS (PHONICS)

## CVC Word Building

- Have paper templates pre-cut
- Child will choose the picture words and place them on their game mat
- Child will then use the given letters to spell out the word represented by picture

## Family Phonics Activity Book

- Have child do a few pages as you and the child feel comfortable

## Tips for Parents

- Read out loud with your child daily
- Encourage your child to read along with you with words they know.
- Choose books with repetitive rhyming
- Emphasize the pure sound (phoneme) of each letter

# BLENDING SOUNDS

**Blending is the process of combining individual sounds (phonemes) to form a word. For example, /b/ /a/ /t/ becomes "bat".**

- Blending allows children to read unfamiliar words by sounding them out.
- Encourages independence in reading as they apply decoding strategies.

## Techniques that Help



- Use visual aids such as dot slider cards and pointer fingers
- Say a word slowly by stretching the sounds (eg. /c/ /a/ /t/)
- Reverse it- say the word normally and have them break it into sounds

# BLENDING SOUNDS- ACTIVITY

## Point & Sound

- Have child sound out the beginning, middle, and ending sounds by pointing at the colored dots. Blend sounds by pointing through the word.

## Fluency Builders- Word Blending

- Have child decode each letter by sounding out the sounds and then adding them together to blend the sounds
- Continue with following activities: senting reading, challenge words, drawings

## Parent Tips

- Use pencils or pointers to isolate sounds of letters
- Using your pointer you can guide your child through through the separate phonemes and then the whole word.
- Its okay if they don't get it the first time, you can keep going.

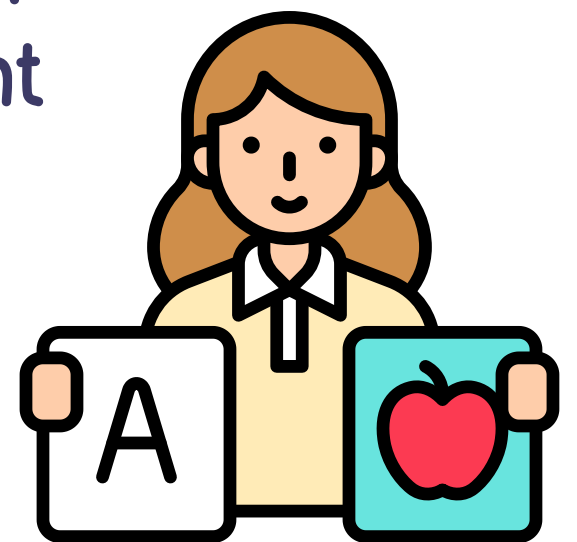
# HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS

**High frequency words are the most common used words in written text (eg. “the”, “and”, “is”). These words often do not follow standard rules and need to be memorized.**

- Knowing these words by sight increase reading fluency and comprehension.
- Reduces cognitive load, allowing children to focus on decoding less familiar words.

## Techniques that Help

- Create flashcards or games like- hide and seek, red light green light, shaving creme writing...
- Use repetition and consistent exposure through reading and writing



# HIGH FREQUENCY WORDS- ACTIVITY

## FLASH CARDS

1. Sight Word Drills: Set goal for amount of sight words student can identify. Same sight words must be used to build knowledge through repetition
2. Speed Test: How many sight words can you read in a certain amount of time
3. Sight Word Swat: Students can use a fly swatter to identify words that someone calls out.

## CONNECT 4

1. Choose one person to start. Players must call words from the bottom row and go upward from there. Once a word is called they must read it correctly and then place a chip or write their first initial over it. No words can be skipping the the same column.
2. Players then take turns calling out words and claiming those spaces. The goal is to connect 4 words together (from left to right, up and down, or diagonally)

# FLUENCY

**Reading fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and with proper expression. Fluent readers focus on comprehension rather than decoding every word.**

- Fluency bridges the gap between word recognition and comprehension
- Improves enjoyment and confidence in reading

## Tips for Parents

- Model reading by reading aloud with expression
- Encourage repeated readings of favorite books to build familiarity and speed.
- Practice echo reading with your child. You read a sentence they repeat it



# VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

**Vocabulary development involves learning the meaning of words and how to use them effectively in reading , writing, and speaking**

- Strong vocabulary improves comprehension and communication skills
- Exposure to a wide range of words enhances a child's ability to express themselves.

## Tips for Parents

- Read a variety of books to expose your children to new words
  - Discuss unfamiliar words in context and courage their use in daily conversation
- Create a word wall



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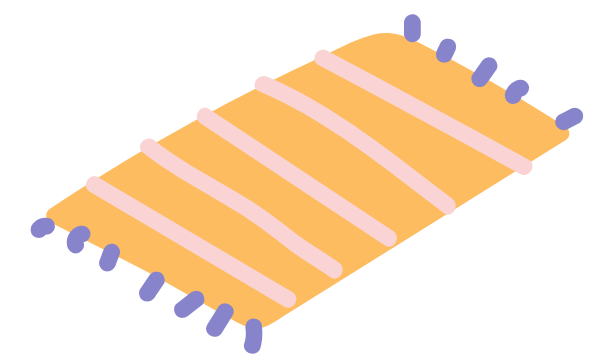
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