

Teach All 44 Phonetic Sounds

Why teach all 44 phonetic sounds to preschoolers and kindergarten-age children?

Of the over 200 most frequent words, children can only sound out about 50 of them if we only teach the short vowel and main consonant sounds. By contrast, if they are taught all 44 phonetic sounds through music and pictures, children are able to sound out most of the frequent words with few rule breakers. See our "High Frequency Word List".

What are some fun activities for the four stages of reading?

There are many activities that can make the four stages of reading fun and interesting. When you incorporate variety and music into teaching reading, children learn to read faster. We have posted an outline from Nada's "Four Stages of Reading" workshop, which includes suggested activities on the site. Also see our list of "Words for Reading Instruction".

Why use music to teach reading?

Using music and chants to teach reading skills speeds up the learning process. The Phonics By Spelling books and audio CD are an easy fun tool to teach reading. Any simple chants, like the one below, will help children learn the phonics and spelling patterns.

rat and rate
rat and rate
Rat says ă.
Rate says ā.

See our "Words for Reading Instructions".

What is the most important part of teaching the phonetic sounds?

Teach children to make crisp consonant sounds without adding "UH" to the end. For example, the "Bb" sound is made with the mouth mostly closed. Have children put their fist under their chin so it doesn't drop when they make this and other consonant sounds. Make sure all songs and activities teach the sounds crisply.

What is the second most important part of teaching the phonetic sounds?

Love to read and cultivate that love in the lives of your children. Spend time reading books with them and they'll discover the magic of reading and develop good reading habits that will last a lifetime.