

LINKING SOUNDS TO LETTERS

SUPPORTING
FAMILIES &
GROWING
READERS



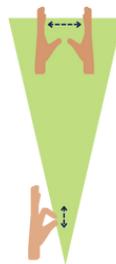
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Helping children recognize sounds in spoken words and link those sounds to letters will prepare them to read and understand words. Being aware of sounds in words is very important to reading. This awareness allows children to break apart words orally and use sounds to learn to read and write words.

1 HEAR AND USE THE SOUNDS IN WORDS

Introduce children to words, which are larger, familiar speech segments, working down to smaller and smaller sound segments, first whole words, then parts of words, and finally individual sounds. This will prepare them to learn about the individual sounds that letters represent, and then recognize those sounds and letters as they are used in words.

Show children that they can **break down sentences into words**. For example, ask the child to count the number of words in the sentence, "The boy ate two slices of pizza," and correct any mistakes.



The puppy can jump.

WORDS IN A SENTENCE

pu ppy

SYLLABLES IN A WORD

c a n

INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS IN A WORD

a **syllable** is a part of a word with just one vowel sound

Use **rhyming words** to help them recognize small parts within a word. For example, ask the child to put a thumb up each time he or she hears a rhyme.



Play a variation of Eye Spy, called "**I Hear**". Say to your child, "I hear with my little ear, something that starts with the sound..." This will help them strengthen how they hear individual sounds in words.

2

MATCH LETTER NAMES TO LETTER SOUNDS

Once children have practiced hearing sounds in spoken words, teach them to recognize and name letters, along with the sounds that letters represent. A child demonstrates letter-sound knowledge when he or she can look at a printed letter and tell you the sound it represents.

Circle or underline letters in print, then ask your child to name the letter and the sound the letter makes. This could be with any printed materials, such as newspapers, magazines, or junk mail.

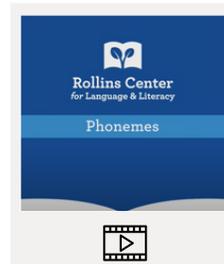
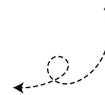
Point out letters on signs while driving and **ask** your child to name the letter. To make it more challenging, follow up by asking them to name a different word with the same letter.

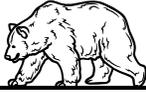
Use or **create** flashcards that contain each letter of the alphabet with a corresponding picture to help children remember the letter sound when they see it in print.

CLICK TO SEE THIS STRATEGY IN ACTION



WHAT **ARE** THE DIFFERENT LETTER SOUNDS?



letter SOUND CHART 					aA
bB 	cC 	dD 	eE 	fF 	apple 
gG 	hH 	iI 	jJ 	kK 	
lL 	mM 	nN 	oO 	pP 	
qQ 	rR 	sS 	tT 	uU 	
vV 	wW 	xX 	yY 	zZ 	