

PHONIC TIPS

Teach First

- 1) All the consonant sounds
- 2) Short vowel sounds
- 3) Consonant blends and digraphs such as ch, th, cl, etc. at the beginning then the end of words.
- 4) Long vowel sounds

Teach as Needed

- 5) Teach the silent e rule. An e on the end of a word usually makes the vowel before it say its own name.
- 6) Soft and hard C and G. Use trial and error method until the word makes sense - or tell them that if these two letters are followed by an E I or Y, they are usually soft such as: cage, giant, ceiling, certain, cinders, age, lacy, face.
- 7) Teach the "r" controlled vowels: er ur ir or ar. They make their own sound.
- 8) Teach word endings (suffixes) or beginnings (prefixes). Look for small words within words when breaking down the word.
- 9) For long words, first look for small words within the word, look for familiar endings such as ous, ient, tion, ed, es, ily, etc. then try separating between pairs of consonants. Vowels surrounded by consonants usually have a short sound - such as: car/pen/ter ex/pec/ted for/got/ten.

If the letter pattern is consonant, vowel, consonant, vowel, the vowel will usually have a long sound such as: be/gin re/new pre/pare. There are lots of exceptions.

Three consonants many times make up a blend that has its own sound and should not be separated, such as rth, rnt, sch, tch, chl.

- 10) Look for compound words.
- 11) Look for two vowels together. Teach some of the sounds of these: ou, ei, ie, ea, au. Teach the saying "When two vowels come together, the first one does the talking, the second one does the walking". There are, of course, several exceptions to this rule also.
- 12) Teach word families: et, bet, set, it, kit, fit, - ead, bead, lead, - ing, ring, ding, fling, they put on prefixes and suffixes.
- 13) Teach how to spell numbers: one, two, three, thousand, million.
- 14) Teach that some words are spelled the same but have different meanings, and some words sound the same but are spelled differently. Lead, lead, sea, see, wind, wind.
- 15) Teach unusual silent letters such as lamb, knock, thumb.