

## Writing to Read

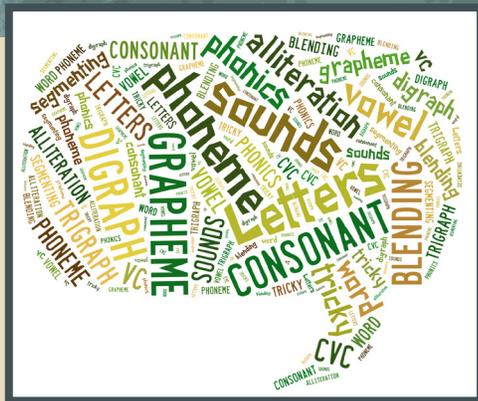
The web is full of great resources that you can use and modify to meet your child's learning needs. Here are two:

- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/creative-writing/writing-prompts-kids/>

Since phonics is all about the connection between what we hear in speech and what we see in print, children need to start writing. This **PBS** website provides ideas you can use to provide writing experiences for your child. Again, these are just "starter" ideas. What can you think of to get your child thinking about the relationship between printed letters and the sounds of speech?

- <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

The **International Children's Library** provides access to over 4000 electronic books in many different languages. Have an iPhone? Download their free app to read books or even write your own!



## Help Your Child Read

Here are some everyday things to do:

- **Use the letters in the name:** Point out words that have the letters of your child's name.
- **Work on the sound and name of letters:** Talk with your child about the sounds of letters. Repetition is the key so point out letters and talk about them often.
- **Learn uppercase and lowercase letters:** Children will read books with more lowercase letter than capital.
- **Practice early writing techniques:** Write in sand, in the fog of a window, in a steamy bathroom mirror. Have fun!
- **Objects have names:** Label parts of your child's environment so a connection between real world things and letters can be made.
- **Point out parts of print:** Show your child the title of the book, run your finger slowly under the words as you read, Read a story or two from the newspaper or a magazine. Later you can even help them with punctuation and simple grammar.



a parent's guide to

# Phonics Instruction

*Turning sounds into letters, words, and ideas.*

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty.

It should be offered to them as a precious gift."

Kate DiCamillo,

*Author, The Tale of Despereaux*

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## Highland Square

Village Schools

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Highland Square  
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## Why Phonics?



Educators seek to provide a rigorous, comprehensive reading instruction program with multiple teaching techniques. As part of a **structured, systematic approach** to reading, phonics instruction will help your child **make a connection** between what is heard and what is read. Understanding this concept is key to your child's success in reading.

## You Can Help



Teaching your child to read is a total team effort. The school day is packed with activities and your child is busy learning a lot of new and challenging things. Working with you at home is so important! During this time together, you'll need to help your child recall what's been learned during the day. What kind of ways can you think of to help your child hold onto and master these new skills? Read on!

## In This Guide



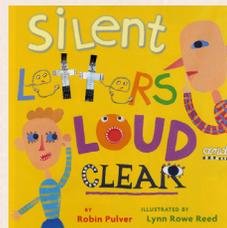
This guide is really just the start. It will give you information and ideas to get you started as you look for the best way to help your child at home. The list of books is an example of what's available to you and your child. Don't forget to take advantage of the local library. There you will find access to the web, tons of books, and a staff who's job it is to help people find information and foster the love of reading and learning.

### *Silent Letters Loud and Clear*

- Robin Pulver, author
- Lynn Rowe Read, illustrator

**The trouble:** Students have difficulty when spelling words with silent letters.

**Activity:** Using word cards created from the book, have your child sort the cards in the following categories: silent letters at the beginning of the word, silent letters in the middle, silent letter to end a word.

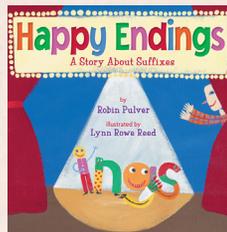


### *Happy Endings: A Story About Suffixes*

- Robin Pulver, Author
- Lynne Rowe Reed, Illustrator

**The trouble:** Students have to know the rules when using suffixes.

**Activity:** Create a list of words from the book that have suffixes. Break them down into the root word and the suffix and place the word parts on individual slips of paper. Work with your child to create a Suffix Rules Book by making separate pages for each word. Use a glue stick to put the pieces together. Then work with your child to write the rule for the suffix on the paper. Staple all the pages together to create a book.

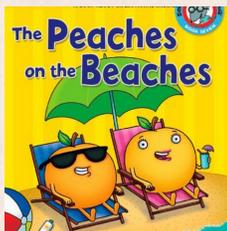


### *The Peaches on the Beaches: Inflectional Endings*

- Brian P. Cleary, Author
- Jason Miskimins, Illustrator

**The trouble:** Inflected endings require the students to know when to use "ed" "es" or "s".

**Activity:** using envelopes and a piece of poster board, create a pocket chart with several pockets. Use three Post-it notes; one with "ed" on it, one with "s" and one with "es". Stick the notes on three of the pockets. Create a list of words from the book that use "es", "ed" and "s". Create two cards for each word; one with the root



word and one with the ending. Have your child mix up all the cards and put the words back together. When a match is made, it is put in the correct pocket. Ask your child why they made their choices.

### *-ing: Spring In The Kingdom Of Ying*

- Liza Charlesworth, Author
- Ellen Joy Sasaki, Illustrator

**The trouble:** Students have trouble remembering the rules for using the "ing" ending.

**Activity:** Read the book and enjoy the story. Talk about why the "ing" ending is used. Using magnetic "refrigerator" letters, help your child create the root word and then correctly modify it with the "ing" ending.

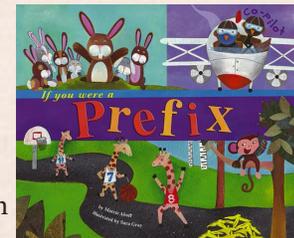


### *If You Were a Prefix*

- Marcie Aboff, Author
- Sara Gray, Illustrator

**The trouble:** Prefixes all have different meanings and students sometimes have a hard time keeping all of them straight.

**Activity:** Using the pocket chart, place a Post-it note with one of the following prefixes on a pocket: un, re, mis, pre. Choose words from the book that have these prefixes and write a short sentence describing – but not using – the word. Make index cards with the root word for each word you chose. After you have read the sentence, have your child place the root word card in the prefix pocket. When all the words are sorted, help your child write out all the completed words.



## Build Literacy Everywhere!

Visit <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-activities> for ideas on how to guide your child's reading development at home, while watching TV, and even in the bathtub!