



Building Phonics Skills at Home

Fun ways to practice letter sounds with your child

Audience: Parents & Caregivers

Based on professional development by Dr. Chase Young | LiTerrific.com

What Is Phonics?

Phonics is the connection between letters and the sounds they make. When children learn these patterns, they can sound out new words while reading and spell words while writing. You don't need special training to help, just a few fun activities.

Make It a Game, Not a Drill

Research shows children learn best when activities are active, creative, and meaningful. Here are some ideas inspired by what teachers do in the classroom:

Silly Commercials

Pick a sound your child is learning (like the /ir/ sound in *bird, girl, shirt, dirt*). Together, brainstorm words with that sound, then invent a ridiculous product and create a commercial for it.

Example: "The World's First Dirt Skirt! Only \$5! It's a terrible idea!"

Your child can perform the commercial, record it on a phone, or draw an ad for it.

Tongue Twisters

Make up tongue twisters using words with the target sound: "*The first twirly bird chirps in a dirty shirt.*" See how fast your child can say it without stumbling. Take turns making them up.

Spooky Stories

Working on silent letters (like the silent B in *lamb, climb, tomb, numb, bomb*)? Write a short spooky story together that uses as many of those words as possible. Let your child illustrate it.

Word Hunts

Pick a sound pattern and go on a hunt: in books, on signs, on cereal boxes, in the car. Keep a running list on the fridge.

Tips for Parents

- Keep it short: 10-15 minutes is plenty
 - Keep it fun: stop before your child gets frustrated
 - Let them be silly: the absurdity is what makes it stick
 - Write together: even a silly sentence counts as writing practice
 - Perform together: reading aloud with expression builds fluency
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