

Helping your child with Phonics Rules

The following are terms we will teach throughout the year.

Phonics is a method teachers use to teach children how to read and write the English language. Phonics involves teaching the children how to connect the sounds they hear in spoken English with the letters or groups of letters that match. For example, when the children learn that the sound /k/ can be made by k, c, or ck - they are learning phonics. Or when they learn that "tion" says /shun/ they are also learning phonics.

Phonics instruction is important because it will help your child learn to read AND spell. By blending the letter sounds that they learn together the children can decode many unfamiliar words that they might come across while they are reading. It will also help them know which letters to use as he or she writes a word.

The English language is tricky~! It is like a code, so encourage your child to have fun being a detective and decoding the words as they read!

These are some of the phonics rules that we will be learning throughout the school year:

*Please note not all words in the English language follow these rules. Many words in the English language are derived from another language and won't follow the rules.

Consonants - are blocked by your teeth, tongue, or lips. Consonants are all the letters in the alphabet except for a, e, i, o, and u.

Vowels - are open and voiced, they are the letters a, e, i, o, and u.

Syllable - one opening of the mouth

Closed Syllables - are syllables in which a vowel is followed by a consonant, which closes it off making the vowel say its short sound. For example, in the one syllable word *hit* - the **i** is blocked in by the **t** so therefore the **i** will say its short sound. More examples of words following this rule include: log, cat, sit, tug, and wet.

Open Syllables - are syllables in which a vowel is left open because there is not a consonant closing it off. This in turns makes the vowel say its long sound. For example, in the one syllable word *hi* the **i** is left open so it says its name. More examples of words following this rule include: no, me, go, we, and so.

Double Consonants - When two of the same consonants are right by each other in a word, one is silent. Some examples of words that follow this rule include: ball, class, stuff, etc.

Digraphs - a digraph is when two letters come together and make one sound. For example, in digraph ck we only hear one (k) sound, not two. The following are just some of the digraphs we will be learning this year: ck, th, wh, sh, ch, etc.

A **Vowel Digraph** is when two vowels come together and make one sound. Some examples include: oo, ee, etc.

When two vowels are right next to each other the first one says its long sound and the second one is silent. We use the chant; *"When two vowels go a walking - the first one does the talking."* Examples

include: ee, ai, ay, etc.

A **suffix** is added to the end of a base word to change the meaning of that word. For example: **-s**: means more than one, **-ing**: means its happening now, **-ed**: means it happened in the past. Here are additional suffixes we will be learning this year: less, ness, en, es, er, est, ly, and ful.

Suffix **-s** can say (s) or (z) **-ed** can say (ed) (d), or (t).

A **prefix** is added to the beginning of a base word and changes the meaning of that base word. Here are some examples of the prefixes we will be learning this year: un, non, dis, in, over, pre, post, etc.

When a word is **singular** it means one. When a word is **plural** it means more than one. For example: tip = singular and tips = plural.

Apostrophe (**'s**) shows ownership. For example, Tip's pin.

A **compound word** is when two words come together to make one new word. No letters are added or left out when combining the words. Example: fire + man = fireman.

A **contraction** is a shortening of two words. We use an apostrophe (') to mark the letters that have been left out. For example: it is = it's.

A **noun** names a person, place, or thing.

A **proper noun** names a specific person, place, or thing and is always capitalized. Examples: Ms. Leake, Lexington, Target, McDonald's, etc.

A **verb** shows action.

A **noun marker** is the words *a*, *an*, or *the*. And it shows that a noun is coming in the sentence.

An **adjective** describes a noun.

Silent "e" Rule - when a word ends in a silent **e** the vowel usually makes its long sound. Some examples include: make, dime, rode, and mule.

R-controlled vowels - is when two letters come together to make an unexpected (different) sound. Some combination examples include: **er** - like in butter, **ur** - like in turtle, **ir** - like in bird.

Y as a Vowel - one-syllable word: **y** says (**i**) like in the word *cry*

two-syllable word: **y** says (**e**) like in the word *penny*

A **blend** is a group of consonants whose sounds blend together. Each letter within the blend is pronounced individually, but quickly, so they "blend" together. Blends are usually composed of two or three consonants and can be at the beginning or end of a word. Some examples include: *bl, br, cl, cr, tr, fl, fr, gl, gr, dr, pl, pr, sm, sn, sw, sp, st, scr, spl, spr, str, nd, nt, and nk*