

Starting Off Right with Phonics

*Fun Activities
to Help Your Child
in Reading*

TREASURE **BAY**
WORKSHOPS



Agenda

- Definition
 - Including the difference between phonemic awareness and phonics
- Five phonics skills
- Fun activities you can do with your child to improve each skill
- Breakout session with small groups to practice some of the activities

What Is Phonics?

- The instructional method that teaches that there is a predictable relationship between the sounds of the spoken language (phonemes) and the written letters that represent those sounds (graphemes)
- Instruction in the connection between the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds, and how to blend them together to read words



How Important Is It?



“For children just beginning to read—typically in kindergarten and first grade—it is vital to learn the sound-symbol relationships of written language. . . . Phonics may be just one ingredient in a properly balanced reading program, but it is a ‘gateway’ skill: if you don’t crack the alphabetic code, you can’t read.”

—Stephen Zemelman, Harvey Daniel, and Arthur Hyde, “Best Practice: Today’s Standards for Teaching and Learning in America’s Schools”

What's the Difference?

- **Phonemic awareness:**
An understanding of the spoken language
Child can tell that *bat* and *bird* start with the same sound, and that *bat* and *rat* rhyme.
- **Phonics:**
The relationship between letters and sounds
Child knows that /b/, /a/, and /t/ blend together to say *bat*.

Phonics Skills

- Alphabetic knowledge
- Alphabetic principle
- Word recognition
- Reading decodable text
- High frequency and irregular words

Alphabetic Knowledge

- Skill: Knowing the shapes, names, and sounds of letters, progressing from letter names and shapes to letter sounds
- Activities:
 - Alphabet song
 - Memory game
 - Tic-Tac-Toe



Alphabetic Principle

- Skill: Understanding the relationship between letters and sounds
- Activities:
 - Letter sounds
 - Memory game
 - Writing names
 - Alphabet Soup



Word Recognition

- Skill: Recognizing words in print; being able to sound out words and automatically read others
- Activities:
 - Blending
 - Making Words activity
 - Three-Sound Word Deck



Reading Decodable Text

- Skill: Reading or sounding out letters to determine a word and its meaning
- Activities:
 - Reading together
 - Rereading



High Frequency and Irregular Words

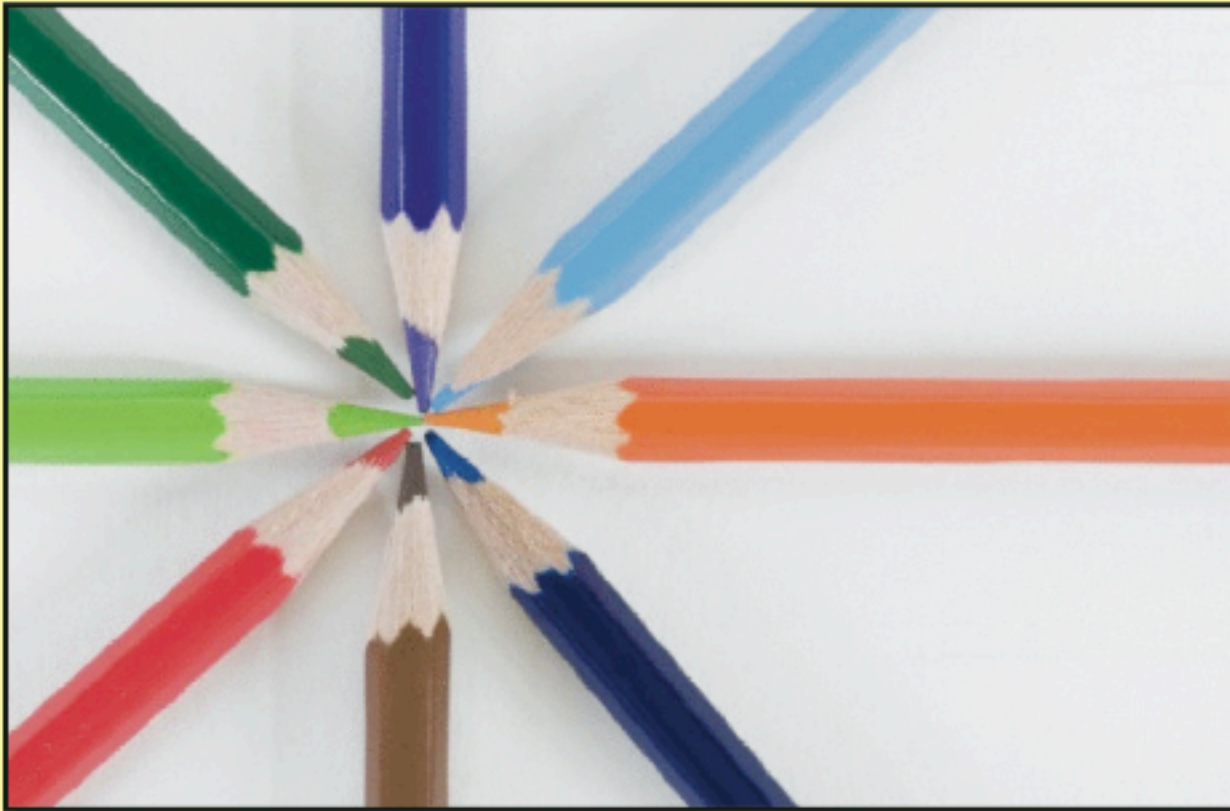
- Skill: Knowing irregular and high frequency words by sight
- Activities:
 - Flash cards
 - Alphabetizing flash cards
 - Memory game
 - Tic-Tac-Toe
 - Bingo



Other Recommendations

- Focus on one specific skill at a time.
- Spend twenty minutes a day.
- Repetition and practice is key.

Breakout Session



Wrap-up and Q & A

- Next steps: Apply what you've learned.
 - Choose a few skills to focus on.
 - Refer to your notes.
 - Add another skill or two later.