

WORKING WITH LETTERS, SOUNDS AND WORDS IN OUR CLASSROOMS



Focus of Instruction

Emergent students: letter knowledge and phonemic awareness.
Conventional students: Decoding and sight words



Guiding Questions – Early Emergent Students who know less than 50% of the alphabet

Are you focusing on 2 or more letters per week with early alphabet learners?

Are you using students' names as a basis for early alphabet learners?

Are you providing opportunities to play with letter shapes and sounds?

Are you pointing out letters and print in the environment?

Are you talking about letters and their sounds when you encounter them in everyday activities?

Are you doing some activities every week with the whole alphabet?

Are you explicitly referencing letter names and sounds in shared reading and writing activities?

Are you providing alphabet books?

Are you doing letter sorts with the two letters of the week?

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Guiding Questions – Emergent Students who know more than 50% of the alphabet

Are you using the Explicit Alphabet Instructional Routine script with a letter per day (5 letters per week)?

Are you doing onset rime for phonemic awareness with a word family of the week?

Are you providing opportunities to play with letter shapes and sounds?

Are you pointing out letters and print in the environment?

Are you talking about letters and their sounds when you encounter them in everyday activities?

Are you doing some activities every week with the whole alphabet?

Are you explicitly referencing letter names and sounds in shared reading and writing activities?

Are you providing them with alphabet books?

Are you doing letter sorts with the 5 letters of the week?

Are you using mnemonics such as food, people and actions for difficult to learn letters?

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Guiding Questions – Conventional Students who know most of the letters, most of the time and who can hear initial sounds in words (below year 3)

Are you doing daily phonics instruction?

Are you introducing 5 high frequency words and/or keywords a week, for weeks 1 – 7 of terms 1, 2 and 3?

Are you using a word wall?

Are you doing activities with high frequency words through the week to consolidate their use and meaning?

Are you doing word sorts?

Are you doing Guess the Covered Word?

Are you encouraging students to use the word wall in writing and reading?



More Information

Remember also to look at:

<https://www.comprehensiveliteracy.com/working-with-letters-and-sounds.html#/>
(emergent)

<https://www.comprehensiveliteracy.com/working-with-words.html#/> (conventional)