Dear Family:

We have been working on concepts of print, oral expression, phonological awareness, letter formation and sound recognition.

We are now ready to move forward to Unit 3 in Fundations®. In Unit 3, your child will continue to practice and learn:

* *to distinguish long and short vowel sounds*
* *to use phonemic awareness skills to identify the beginning and ending sounds in words*
* *to blend three sounds into words*
* *segmenting and spelling 3-sound short vowel words*

In this Unit, spelling words will begin with the letters **f l m n r s**, and end with the letters **d g p t**. The middle sound will be a short vowel sound.

Your child will also learn to read sentences in meaningful "chunks" or phrases. With practice, this skill will greatly enhance comprehension.

Your child will learn Trick Words. These are high frequency words that must be memorized. You will cut out Trick Word flashcards to help your child practice.

Be sure to review your child's "Alphabet Book" often. As you work with your child, keep this available for reference. Whenever your child hesitates with a sound, have him or her look up the keyword.

Enjoy helping your child discover the world of reading. Provide help whenever needed. Most importantly, remember to have fun!

Sincerely,

Fundations® **Trick Words**

WEEK 3

and

a

the

to

are

WEEK 4

his

is

→ **Cut words into flashcards. 1.** Each night, help your child **read** the Trick Words. These words must be memorized.

WEEK 5

has

as

WEEK 6

was

→ **Cut words into flashcards. 1.** Each night, help your child **read** the Trick Words. These words must be memorized.

Help Your Child Recognize Sounds at the Ending of Words

A word's **ending** sound is much more difficult for your child to hear. You will need to pronounce the words very carefully. This is another activity where you can give mini-rewards and then count responses.

Picture Book Activity

You can use a picture book and ask for the ending sound on the name of the picture (rather than the beginning sound). For example: for the word **dog**, the sound **/g/** is the answer.

Word Play Activity

Say the word. Ask your child to repeat the word and tell you what sound was at the end of the word (one piece of cereal) and if possible what letter makes that sound (another piece of cereal).

You can do this activity several times. Mix up the words or just do a few at a time.

Word	What sound?	What letter?
chin	/n/	n
farm	/m/	m
map	/p/	p
heart	/t/	t
band	/d/	d
bark	/k/	k
bus	/s/	s
hill	/l/	l
rag	/g/	g
tap	/p/	p
grass	/s/	s
hit	/t/	t
rob	/b/	b
fluff	/f/	f
mom	/m/	m
ran	/n/	n
hop	/p/	p
whiz	/z/	z

Help Your Child Recognize Sounds at the Beginning and Ending of Words

Review vowel and consonant sounds. Remember, your child may look in his or her "Alphabet Book" whenever there is a need.

Follow These 4 Steps:

1. Randomly point to a letter and have your child say the letter name.

2. Randomly point to a letter and have your child say the letter sound.

3. Say a word from the list below and have your child point to the letter that begins the word.

4. Say a word and have your child point to the letter that ends the word.

a	b	c	d	e	f
g	h	i	j	k	l
m	n	o	p	qu	r	s
t	u	v	w	x	y	z

Word List

big	top	hat	zap	tug	lap
dog	mud	jab	wet	pit	hot
rug	met	hip	job	fun	fog

Help Your Child Make Words by Blending Sounds

Now that your child recognizes both upper and lower-case letters and the sound that each letter makes, we can *blend* some of those sounds to make words.

Tapping the sounds helps! Have your child say each sound of a word while tapping a finger to the thumb.

Example:

For the word **mad**, have your child say the sound **/m/** while touching index finger to thumb; then say the sound **/ă/** while touching middle finger to thumb; then say the sound **/d/** while touching finger to thumb; and then finally say the entire word **"mad."**

On Monday and Tuesday, have your child find the letters to make three words using the letters you have cut up and stored in a baggie.

On the next page you will write a word from the following list (without saying it). Have your child find the cut up letters and put them onto the blank squares.

After the letters are placed to form the word, say, **"Now let's tap out to see what word you made!"** Sound tap and read the word together.

Week 1

bug	**hip**	**ten**
hot	**rag**	**gum**

Week 2

nut	**leg**	**pat**
jog	**kit**	**fun**

Week 3

beg	**met**	**pet**
sob	**dot**	**tub**

Week 4

cup	**tax**	**sun**
hug	**mix**	**rip**

Week 5

bib	**cub**	**fit**
dig	**cab**	**pig**

Week 6

zap	**rub**	**pal**
gas	**him**	**tug**

Fundations® **Make Words Activity**

Write a word from your list here.

Have your child find and place letters here. Then tap and read the word.

WEEK 1

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

WEEK 2

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Fundations® **Make Words Activity**

Write a word from your list here.

Have your child find and place letters here. Then tap and read the word.

WEEK 3

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

WEEK 4

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

Fundations® **Make Words Activity**

| Write a word from your list here. | Have your child find and place letters here. Then tap and read the word. |

WEEK 5

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

☐ ☐ ☐

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

☐ ☐ ☐

WEEK 6

Monday's Words

_____

_____

_____

☐ ☐ ☐

Tuesday's Words

_____

_____

_____

☐ ☐ ☐

Help Your Child Spell Words

Your child can now spell some words! Now rather than making and reading words, you will say the word to your child and have him or her spell it.

Use the letter squares. Say a word. Have your child repeat the word. Then tap the sounds out together. After you tap the sounds, have your child find the letter that goes with each tap to spell the word.

Do two-three words each night. Remember to have your child look in the sound notebook for help, as needed.

mad	sad	lad
map	nap	lap
sat	fat	mat
sit	lid	fit
sip	lip	big
bed	dog	pot
jog	hug	tug
dip	mug	sub
wig	yes	fun
red	pup	fog
lot	hut	rib
let	gap	dug
dig	net	pen
vet	wax	led
lit	pig	kit
job	did	zap
rub	pal	fox
nut	gas	him
bus	web	yet
fix	dip	zip

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