

## Learning to Read Through Songs: 3 Key Skills to Practice with Your Child at Home

Skill #1: Phonemic Awareness, or **"Hearing sounds in words."** To learn to read and write, children should practice hearing and saying the sounds in words. This skill is called "segmenting." If they hear the word "cat," they say the three sounds: /k/ /a/ /t/.

- ♪ If you think you know the sounds, sing them out.
- If you think you know the sounds, sing them out.
- If you think you know the sounds, sing them like a circus clown.
- If you think you know the sounds, sing them out. ♪

Words to use: bat, mat, cap,  
map, hat, bus, tub, sun, run,  
pan, man, rug, get, red, dog,  
pig, leg, pen, pet, sad, mad, sit,  
fit, jug, mug, bed, van, win, cut



- **Ask, "Bat, what are the sounds?..../b/ /a/ /t/"**
- **Use the song as a fun way to practice saying the sounds in words together**
- **Dictate 3-sound words like the ones in the box**
- **Ask your child to say the sounds then write the letters**
- **(one letter for each sound) on paper or a dry erase board.**
- **Use words with meaning for your child, such as names of people they know, food they like, favorite games, animals, etc.**

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Skill #2: Alphabetic Principle and Phonics, or **"Knowing the sounds for letters/letter patterns and being able to blend those sounds into words."** To learn to read, children need to know all the letter sounds. Then they have to learn to blend sounds together to "sound out" words. They have to be able to decode words quickly in order to understand what they read.

- ♪ If you think you know the word, sing it out.
- If you think you know the word, sing it out.
- If you think you know the word, sing it like a silly bird.
- If you think you know the word, sing it out. ♪



- **Use index cards and a marker to make a simple set of letter cards.**
- **Review letter cards with your child for 5-10 minutes each day until they know them all. Remember to practice the letter *sounds*, not the letter names. Letter names are important but don't help with decoding.**
- **Make it a game. When your child says the correct sound they "win" the card. Use a timer to see how many letter sounds he or she can get in one minute.**
- **Make 2 sound and 3 sound words with the letter cards (such as at, am, in, an, pat, ham, fin, fan...) and have your child say each sound and then blend the sounds together to read the word (/f/ /a/ /n/, fan.)**

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Skill #3: Oral Reading Fluency, or **"Being able to read text out loud with accuracy, rate, and expression."** In order to be ready for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, children should be accurately reading a *minimum* of 47 words per minute with automaticity and expression.

- **Look for books that interest your child**
- **If you need books, check out the free digital resources from your library**
- **Read with your child every day**