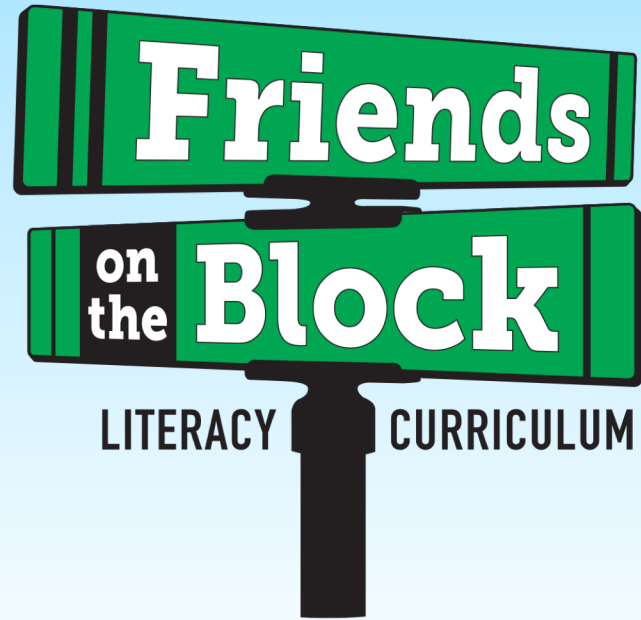




Letter Sounds: How to Teach Anyone to Read and Have Fun While Doing It

Teaching Letter Sounds in Levels 1-3



Our goal is to help ensure that
EVERYONE,
regardless of disability or circumstance,
learns to read.



MEANINGFUL



EFFICIENT
and
EFFECTIVE



FRIENDLY

Objective

The student will...

- say the sound (or the most common sound) for individual letters

S → /sss/
t → /t/



Basic Steps

Practicing Letter Sounds

1. Teacher: When I touch the letter, say the letter-sound. Remember to say the sound for as long as I touch it.

2. Teacher: Say the letter-sound. (Touch the letter, holding your finger on the letter for 2-3 seconds for a continuous sound or tapping the letter quickly for a stop sound.)

Students: (Say the sound, stretching continuous sounds for 2-3 seconds and saying stop sounds quickly.)

S

Basic Steps

Introducing or Correcting

I: Listen. Say the sound for the students.

We: Say it with me. Students say the sound with you.

You: Your turn. Students say the sound independently.

Don't forget to stretch continuous sounds and keep stop sounds short.

Correct errors within 2-4 seconds.

S

Important Tips Sequence

- may follow our sequence or another sequence, but you do need to follow a logical sequence
- separate letters that are confusing (e.g., don't introduce b and then d)
- more common letters before less common letters
- easier letters (s) before more difficult letters (w)

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
c, f, p, m, s, t	d, j, n	b, g, h, l, r

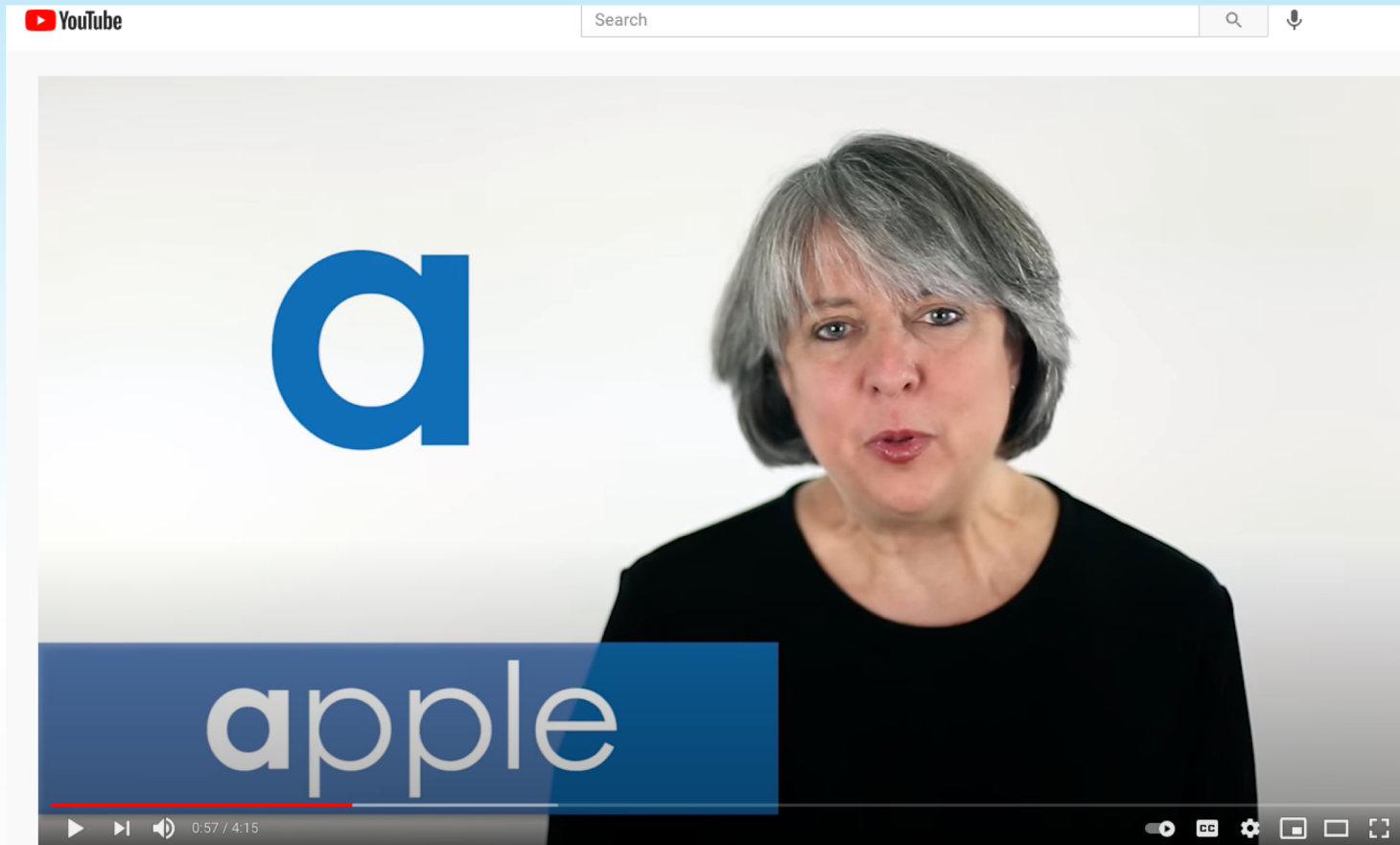


Important Tips Pronouncing Sounds

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
c /k/ cake	d /d/ dog	b /b/ ball
f /fff/ fish	j /j/ jump	g /g/ game
p /p/ pie	n /nnn/ net	h /h/ ham
m /mmm/ milk		l /lll/ lion
s /sss/ sock		r /rrr/ rain
t /t/ toe		



Important Tips Pronouncing Sounds



UFLI Blendable Sounds: A Quick Review



Lesson Routine

Letter Sounds

Part 1 Warm Up (1 to 5 minutes)

- may introduce or practice a few letter sounds

Part 2 Book Reading (5 to 15 minutes)

- in this stage, the student does not have the skill yet to sound out words
- encourage the student to notice letters

Part 3 Game or Fun Learning Activity (5 to 15 minutes)

- most important part of the lesson to practice letter sounds

Warm Up Option: Echo Reading Letter Sounds

Prepare: Choose letter sounds. Write the letters on flashcards or strips of paper.

Teacher:

Listen. My turn.

(hold up the flashcard with the first letter and say the sound)

Your turn.

Student:

(says the sound)

FOTB Level 1:

c

m

f

s

p

t



Warm Up Option: Pick Up Letters

Prepare: Choose letter sounds. Write the letters on flashcards or strips of paper. Lay them out in front of the student in a random order.

Teacher: **Listen.** (say a sound) **Find it and pick it up.**

Student: (picks up the letter)

Teacher: **What's the sound?**

Student: (says the sound)

Repeat with another letter,
going in a random order.

FOTB Level 1:

c	m
f	s
p	t



Warm Up Option: Basic Steps

Prepare: Choose letter sounds. Write the letters on flashcards or strips of paper.

1. Teacher: When I touch the letter, say the letter-sound. Remember to say the sound for as long as I touch it.

2. Teacher: Say the letter-sound. (Touch the letter, holding your finger on the letter for 2-3 seconds for a continuous sound or tapping the letter quickly for a stop sound.)

Students: (Say the sound, stretching continuous sounds for 2-3 seconds and saying stop sounds quickly.)

Repeat with another letter, going in a random order.

FOTB Level 1:

c	m
f	s
p	t



Making it Fun!

Game or Fun Learning Activity

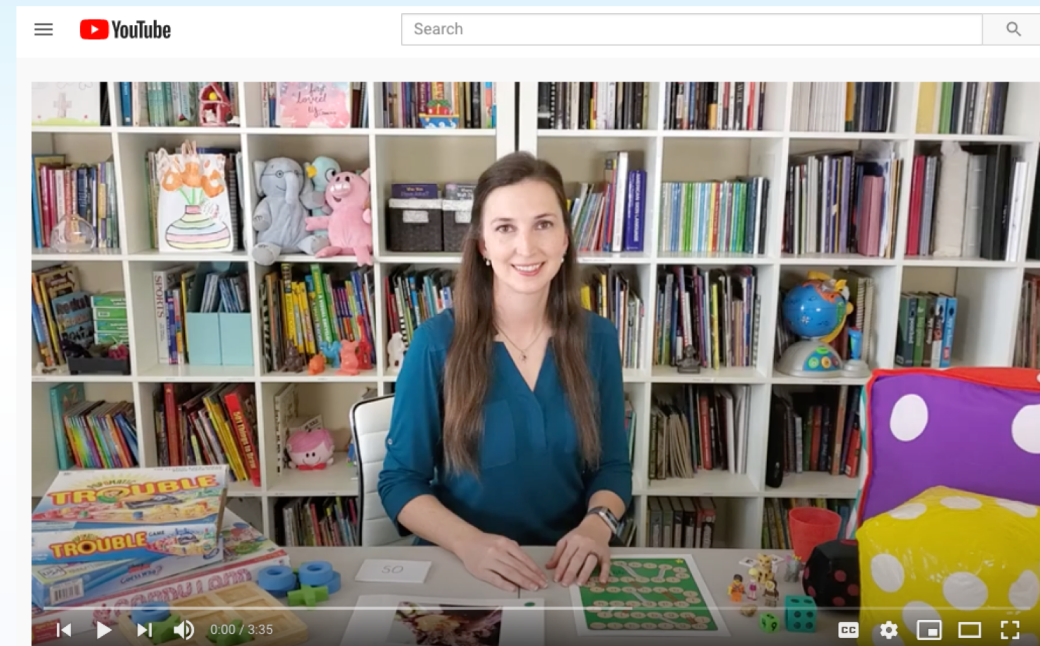
- Choose or create a fun game or activity to practice letter sounds
- Make sure they get a lot of opportunities to practice during the game
- Customize the game to practice the letter sounds your student is working on, including review
- Provide help quickly during the game



Making it Fun!

Make Any Game a Reading Game

- Choose a favorite game
- Make a set of letter cards to practice
- Play the game, practicing a letter sound on each turn
- Provide help quickly during the game

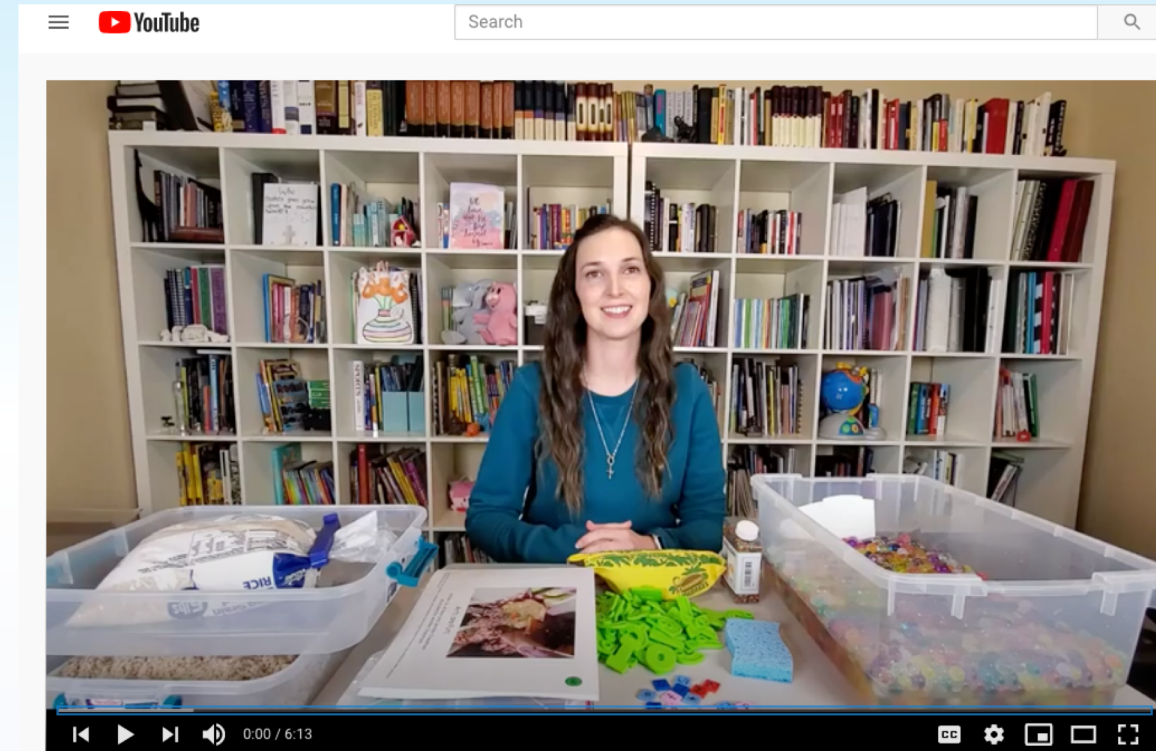


Board Games from Friends on the Block

Making it Fun!

Sensory Box

- Use water beads, sand, or rice in a container
- Put plastic letters to practice in the container
- Take turns reaching in and finding a letter
- Say the sound for the letter
- See our video for more details and ideas



Sensory Box from Friends on the Block

Remember... Habits, Help, Happy

- get into a routine
- keep the pace brisk and lively, but don't rush
- provide help quickly (within 2-4 seconds)
- model and have the student repeat (I, We, You)
- smile and praise frequently



The Big Picture

Preparing to Decode

- **Letter Sounds**
- Blending Sounds and Segmenting Words (phonemic awareness)
- Irregular Words
- Print Awareness
- Vocabulary, Comprehension, and Oral Expression
- Retelling Fiction and Nonfiction



Research and Reason

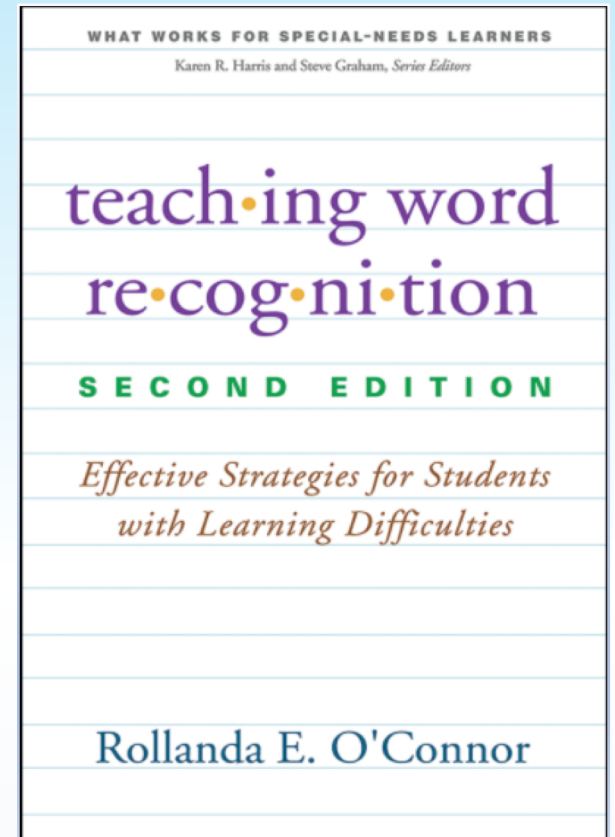
Should I teach letter names before sounds?
along with sounds?

- knowing letter names is really useful and helps you learn sounds
- but...letter sounds are more important
- my opinion:
 - for preschoolers and kindergartners who are NOT struggling, either start with letter names or do both letter names and sounds together
 - for kindergarten students who are struggling and for older struggling students, focus on sounds



Other Resources

- see Tim Shanahan blog on this topic for research
- Rollanda O'Connor's book provides practical guidance and brief explanations of research support



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