The Reading Program - What It Is and Why It Works for Everyone Worksheets Station

The two and three-sound worksheets use the same Triangle, Circle, Square, Rectangle and Star levels as the Picture Packets. The three-sound worksheets add a happy face to each of the symbols for the five levels.

The phrase level worksheets are designated by a Heart symbol. The Heart symbol indicates that students at this level know all 44 sounds. The Heart symbol is not used at the Picture Packet Station because the phrases used there are matched to the symbols already on all the Picture Packet pictures and envelopes.

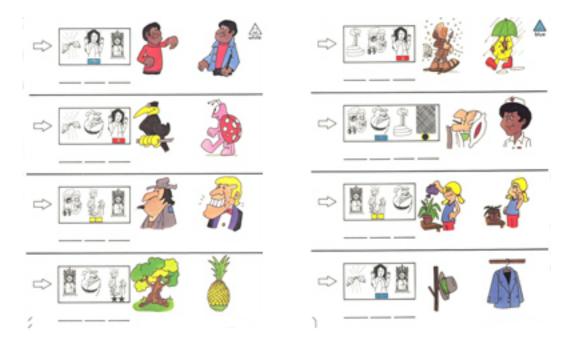
Two-Sound Worksheets



The worksheets are laminated so that they may be written on, then erased and made ready for the next child to use. Children read each word and then circle the correct picture. After the worksheet is completed, the child or children who completed it have another child check their answers. Once checked, another worksheet is selected.

If the teacher chooses to check on any of the worksheets any student has completed, checking takes just a quick glance. In the lower left-hand corner of each worksheet is a tiny code that indicates the correct answers for each worksheet.

Three-Sound Worksheets



The sound-words on all of worksheets at every level have lines beneath them. In addition, many of the sound-pictures in the words have either colored rectangles or double stars beneath them. In the worksheet on the right above, you can see a shaded rectangle with a large dot beneath it that does not represent any sound at all.

The children are told to simply ignore all these little extras. Their use will be explained later.

Phrase Worksheets



At the Picture Packet Station, the five levels of words and phrases to be matched with the pictures were: two-sound, three-sound, phrase,

transition and vowels-only. At the Worksheet Station, there are just three level of worksheets: two-sound, three-sound and phrase.

Three levels of worksheets are all that are needed because these three levels are to become each child's introduction to connecting the sound-pictures to their letter spellings.

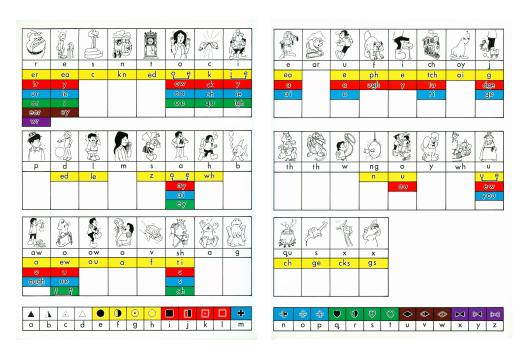
The Transition Level

Once children know all 44 sounds and can read phrases easily, they are ready for the transition level. In the Concept - Connecting - Symbolic sequence, the transition level connects the sounds (the Concept) to the letter-symbols used to spell them.

Each of the five learning stations is involved in the transition process in its own way. At the Picture Packet Station, the letter-spelling of each word now appears directly below each sound-words' box. Children reading the sound-words, can now try reading the letter words instead. The sound-words can be referred to whenever the letter word cannot be read easily.

There is no need for the teacher to asses each child's ability to read the letter-words. Children are only transitioned when they can read sound-phrases easily. Transitioning from sounds to letters happens naturally at each child's own pace.

The Decoding Chart

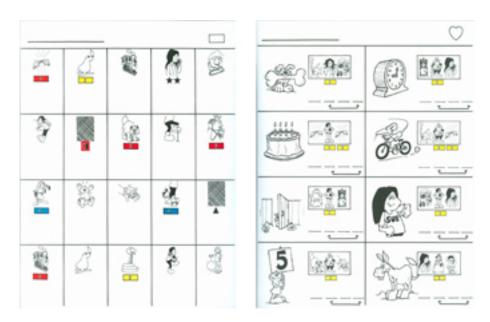


The Handwriting and Decoding Station teaches children how to write each letter of the alphabet so that when they are ready to connect the sound-concept to the letter-symbols, they can already write each letter well enough to be read by someone else.

As the worksheets were introduced, children were told to ignore all the lines and squares and other oddities on each page. Their uses were to be explained later. That "later" is now. As soon as ANY children are ready to transition, ALL children are introduced to the Decoding Chart.

The Decoding Chart shows the spellings for the 44 sounds. The layout of the chart matches the order of the introduction of the sounds. Top left-hand sounds – triangle level. Middle left-hand sounds – circle level. Bottom left-hand sounds – square level. Top right-hand sounds – rectangle level. Remaining twelve sounds – star level.

As the Decoding Chart is introduced children are given Practice Worksheets to learn the Chart's rules.



The Practice Worksheets start at the triangle level and go through each level in turn. When using the triangle level, children only have to look at the top left-hand row of the Decoding Chart for the sounds. The circle level uses the top two left-hand rows, and so on.

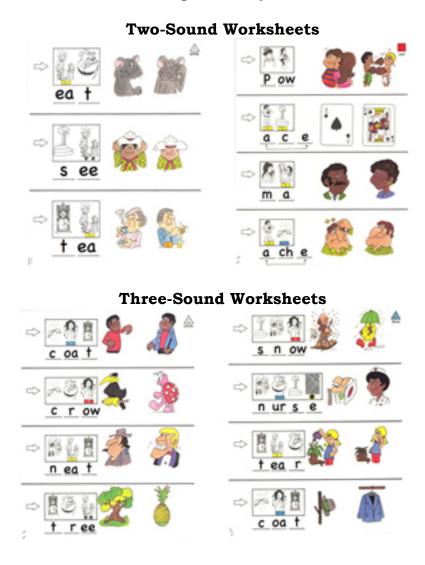
The only rule you might not be able to figure out on your own when you see the filled-in worksheets below is for the shaded rectangle with the symbol beneath it. The shaded rectangle represents a letter that makes no sound (silent letter). The code beneath the shaded rectangle indicates

where that silent letter is to be found in the row of letters at the bottom of the Decoding Chart.

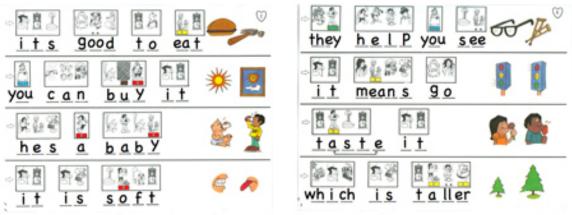
Transition Level Worksheets

The two-sound, three-sound and phrase level worksheets are also the Transition Level Worksheets. Once children can read the sound-words on all these worksheets, they start over at the two-sound triangle level to begin the process of using their Decoding Charts to connect the sounds to their letter spellings.

Using the triangle, circle, square, rectangle, star two and three-sound sequence for the worksheets means that children are learning to use each row on their Decoding Charts one new row at a time. The children can already read every word they are now learning to write with letters. The process is the same as when children learn to record their manipulates in math with numbers. Letters and numbers are the symbols we use to record concepts already understood.



Phrase Worksheets



Student Creative Writing

When children successfully complete all the Transition Worksheets, they use their time at the Worksheet Station to continue the creative writing work they have already begun at the Stamping and Creative Writing Station. What this involves will be made clear as the activities at the Stamping and Creative Writing Station are presented.