



Have you ever taught your child a rule from the English language only to then have them point out an example where it doesn't work? Many words in the English language don't follow basic, regular phonics rules. For example, children learn that *ch* makes the /ch/ sound we hear in *chip*. However, this rule does not apply when decoding the word *school*. Children need to understand that although many words follow common rules, there are words that have irregular spellings. ***Try a Different Sound*** is a strategy readers use when they come to a word that doesn't sound right or make sense. Knowing the multiple sounds a letter or letter combination can make, and being able to try those sounds when needed, is an essential skill.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS STRATEGY AT HOME?

1. When your child reads a word incorrectly, wait until they get to the end of the sentence. Then, stop your child and ask, "Did the word you just read sound right?" Recognizing that a word is incorrect is the first step in correcting it to read accurately.
2. Remind your child that when readers use the strategy *Try a Different Sound*, they listen for a word they recognize. They then check to make sure that the word makes sense in the sentence.
3. When sounding out words, review the different sounds letters make. Ask your child, "What other sound could that letter make?" Encourage your child to look for word parts and patterns along with trying different sounds until they are successful.
4. Remind your child to look at the word and ask, "Does it look right, does it sound right, does it make sense?" If it doesn't sound right, they will then know to try a different sound for a letter or letter combination and try again.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AT HOME!