

LOOK CAREFULLY AT LETTERS AND WORDS

UNDERSTAND	Definition	Reading is a visual task where readers look closely at the fine differences of print to distinguish letters and words.
	When to Teach This Strategy	<p>If you see readers who . . .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read wrong words or letters because they don't look across the letters in the word. • see one letter and guess the rest of the word without looking at it. • repeatedly mix up words that look similar because they are not distinguishing one letter from another.
PREPARE	Why We Teach It	Looking carefully at letters and words increases the reader's awareness so they visually discriminate letters or words and accurately read the text in front of them.
	Secrets to Success	When you read, focus on the letters and words in front of you and check for understanding to make sure the words make sense as you go.
TEACH	How We Teach It	<p>We model and think aloud. This gives children a chance to see what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to <i>Look Carefully at Letters and Words</i>. It also gives them a chance to hear what you are thinking as you use this strategy.</p> <p>When reading, it is important to pay attention to the details of each letter and word. When you are first learning to read, this takes awareness and focus, but the more you read, the more automatic it becomes. Sometimes a reader just wants to get through the text, and as a result they read too fast and make errors. This changes the meaning of the text and can make it hard to understand. To keep this from happening, we use the strategy <i>Look Carefully at Letters and Words</i>. To do this, we slow our rate of reading down, paying close attention to the letters that form the words we are reading. As we read, we are constantly checking to make sure the text makes sense.</p> <p>Write an example sentence on the board: "I took a flight home from Florida." Read the sentence: <i>I took a fight home from Florida.</i></p> <p>Stop and think aloud: <i>Wait a second—that doesn't make sense! I can't take a fight. Let me reread and look carefully at letters and words. I am going to look at the word fight. Oh, now I see! I see an l in the word that I missed the first time. The word isn't fight; it's flight. I took a flight home from Florida. Sometimes when we read, there are words that look alike, with only one or two letters different. It is important to pay attention so we can read accurately and understand what we read.</i></p>
		<p>Suggested Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What letters do you see?</i> • <i>Look closely at each letter and say the word slowly.</i> • <i>Look closely at each word.</i> • <i>Does what you read make sense?</i>
SUPPORT	Instructional Pivots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start at the letter level and distinguish between, for example, <i>m</i> and <i>n</i>. • Move to the word level and distinguish between, for example, <i>though</i> and <i>through</i>. • Use a colored overlay to follow words and sentences so they are read in order. • Use picture clues to help with understanding. Do the pictures match the word or sentence read? <p>Also consider materials, setting, instructional practices, and cognitive processes.</p>
	Partner Strategies	<p>These strategies may provide support before, during, and after teaching this strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Listen Carefully to Sounds</i> • <i>Read Texts That Are a Good Fit</i> • <i>Say the Word Slowly</i> • <i>Check for Understanding</i>