



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Accuracy	Strategy: Chunk Letters and Sounds Together
Definition	Chunking letters and sounds together within a word to make decoding more efficient, rapid, and accurate.
Why Children Need This Strategy	For children to be able to understand what they read, they must be able to read the words rapidly as well as accurately. This frees children to focus their attention on the meaning of what they have read.
Secret to Success	Watch for familiar word patterns such as blends, digraphs, prefixes, suffixes, compound words, and small words within a word.
How We Teach It	<p>This strategy is typically for students reading beyond the basic CVC level.</p> <p>Once they know the different sounds made by digraphs, blends, etc., we use different tools to help kids identify them in their reading. When working with a large chart or Big Book, we will use “frames” that outline the smaller word parts. These frames are everything from cardboard cut into a handheld magnifying-glass shape (sometimes complete with colored acetate glued in place of where the lens would be) to a large fly swatter with part of the middle cut out to form a frame that can be laid over a word, isolating the smaller chunk.</p> <p>When we are using a book as we confer with students, we teach them to use their fingers to mask off the chunks found in words, decoding those chunks first, then moving on to tackle the whole word.</p> <p>Slowing the process of looking for smaller parts in words helps train students’ eyes to look rapidly for those chunks.</p>
Troubleshooting	<p>The prerequisite to this strategy is knowing and having experience with the variety of digraphs, blends, prefixes, and suffixes found in words.</p> <p>Beginning with our youngest students, we spend time partaking in word studies that focus on these parts of words so as to build their background knowledge and experiences. Then as the words they encounter in text become more sophisticated, they have applicable knowledge and are ready to apply this strategy.</p>