



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Accuracy	Strategy: Flip the Sound
Definition	Teach children to use their knowledge of letter sounds to decode words by trying out, or “flipping,” the different sounds a letter can make until they hear a word they recognize and that makes sense.
Why Children Need This Strategy	Many words in the English language don’t follow conventional phonics rules. Drawing upon knowledge of the variety of sounds a letter makes can sometimes help children decode a word that has a letter that varies from the traditional sound associated with it.
Secret to Success	<p>Being aware when a word doesn’t sound right or make sense.</p> <p>Knowing the multiple sounds a letter or letter combination can make.</p> <p>Being able to flip the sounds around and then rely on comprehension to see whether the new word sounds right and makes sense.</p> <p>This strategy works particularly well with vowel sounds.</p>
How We Teach It	<p>Our favorite way to teach this strategy is by using a kinesthetic motion to remind students to flip the sound when they come to a word they don’t know. Whether teaching the whole class, a small group, or an individual, we follow the same pattern:</p> <p>We model the strategy by showing them a word that we read incorrectly. If we are working with an individual, we wait until they read a word incorrectly and get to the end of the sentence. Then we stop them to model the strategy of Flip the Sound on their missed word. When we model the strategy, we put our hand palm-down and flip it over and say, “I think I’ll try flipping the sound.”</p> <p>We find it very important to articulate for the students that while we are flipping the sounds in a word, we must listen to see whether we recognize the word.</p> <p>Common language we use in lessons with Flip the Sound: “Did the word you just read sound right?” “When you flip the sound, listen for a word that you recognize.” “What other sound could that letter make?”</p>
Troubleshooting	<p>If a student is struggling with this strategy, having a partner give them a prompt that is the kinesthetic motion of flipping over their hand can be a quiet reminder to try the strategy.</p> <p>See pages 74, 77, and 91 for an extended lesson.</p>