

Dear Families and Caregivers,

During our Phonics Launch lessons, we are learning:

- How to read and spell high-frequency words.
- How to read and spell words with vowel-*r* combinations (words with a vowel sound that is changed when it's followed by the letter *r*): for example, *chart*, *third*, *burst*, and *winter*.
- How to read and spell words ending in *y* when it spells the long *i* or long *e* sound: for example, *shy* and *baby*.
- How to read and spell words with complex spelling patterns, digraph blends and three-letter blends, and silent letters: for example, *gym*, *shy*, *know*, *wrong*, *strange*, and *scraped*.
- How to read and spell words ending with the trigraph *tch* (three letters that together spell one sound): for example, *patch* and *watch*.
- How to read and spell words with diphthongs (two letters that glide together to form two sounds): for example, *found*, *boy*, and *chowder*.

Here are some activities for you to do to help reinforce your child's new learning and review what we have worked on previously.

- **Reread:** Your child will be getting a Phonics Storybook to reread. The Phonics Storybook may be the physical book or a book to read on the Digital Reader. Have your child read the story to you. Listen for them to read the words accurately, smoothly, and with expression.
- **Scavenger Hunt:** Using magazines or newspapers, have your child search to find any words that have the target phonic element or sight words and circle or highlight them. Your child can also search for images that have the target phonic element sound.
- **Sight Word Tic-Tac-Toe:** This sight word game is like traditional tic-tac-toe, but instead of each player using an X or O, each player chooses a sight word to play with. Begin by drawing the hashtag tic-tac-toe game board. Have each player choose the new sight word or a review sight word and write it in a box. Each player reads the sight word after they write it in their chosen tic-tac-toe box. The first person to get three words in a row wins.
- **Draw and Label:** In this activity, your child will draw pictures of things that contain the phonics skill they are working on. After they draw the picture, have them write the word to label what they drew.
- **Write a Retell (fiction):** After your child has reread the story, have them write to retell the story. They can choose to write about the Problem and Solution or the Beginning, Middle, and End. Encourage them to use at least one word with the target phonic element.
- **Facts Learned (nonfiction):** After your child has reread the nonfiction book, have them write three to five facts they learned about the topic. Encourage them to use at least one word with the target phonic element.