

Strategies to use when reading with your child.

# DECODING STRATEGIES

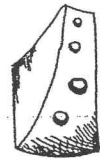
- "Sound it out"
- "Chunk it out"
- "Skip it"
- "Back Track"
- "Hidden Words"
- "Pattern Detective"
- "Cents"
- "Pop"
- "Picture Clues"

In the early stages of reading development much of the time spent in reading is trying to figure out each individual written word. Although, "sounding it out" is a good strategy, it is by no means the only technique we teach our students to use. The following decoding strategies will help them identify and read challenging words in print.



## SOUND IT OUT

**Stretch out the letters and sound out the word slowly.** Listen for the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in the word. Now guess the word and say it in the sentence. Does it sound right?



## CHUNK IT OUT

**Look of "chunks" in the word.** As you read the word, break it up into "chunks" or pieces. Then read the "chunks" one after the other. The word will come together.



## SKIP IT

**Skip the word you don't know and read on.** Reading the rest of the sentence can help you figure out the word. Now reread the sentence. Does the word you have guessed fit the meaning?



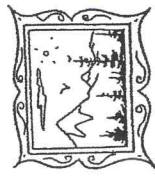
## BACKTRACK

**If you come to a word you don't know, go back and reread the sentence.** Sometimes you may pick up clues for the mystery word in the sentence that you missed the first time. Reread it. You may want to go back a sentence or two as well. Think about what you are reading.



## HIDDEN WORDS

**Look for smaller words, "hiding" inside the BIG word.** Look carefully for smaller words that you know hidden inside the larger word. This can help you figure out the word and pronounce it.



## PICTURE CLUES

**Look for pictures on the page.** Sometimes you can pick up clues by looking at the pictures on the page.

## PATTERN DETECTIVE

**Look for the word patterns that you know (for example: an, it, oy, up).** Look and listen for similarities among words. Do they rhyme? Do they have the same letter pattern? If you can read "cat", then you can read...



## CENTS

**Ask yourself, "Does it make sense?"** Think about what you've read so far and what you already know about the subject. What do you think the word might be? Does the word make sense in the sentence?



## POP

**Read the sentence and say the first letter sound of the word you don't know.** Often, as you read the first sound, the word will "POP" into your head. Reread the sentence to see if it makes sense. Are all the letters for the word there?