

Phonics Activity: Initial Sounds Alphabet Match

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a. Introduction

- According to Phonics is defined as the methods used to teach the connection between letters and sounds. (Wang, 2017)
- Learning phonics helps children learn how to read and spell words. When students know the sounds of letters and letter combinations they are able to decode words. Phonics also teaches students how to identify which letter they need to use to write and spell a word. In order for students to do this they have to be able to determine the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. The activity I chose will have students focus on the initial sound of each word.

b. Body

The activity I chose as one of my learning centers was *Initial Sounds Alphabet Match*. Students will say the name of each picture and then find the letter that has the same initial sound and place the letter on top of the picture. This activity helps the teacher and the student determine which initial sounds they can easily distinguish and which ones they still need a bit of help on, this can also be used as a review after all the letters and sounds have been taught.



c. Conclusion

- Answer the question "So What?"

Phonics is one of the primary building blocks of reading, it teaches students how to decode letters into their respective sounds. This skill is essential for them when reading unfamiliar words by themselves. To early readers, most of the words they come across in print are

unfamiliar even if they have used the word verbally before. Having letter sound knowledge allows students to make a connection between the unfamiliar print words and the words they use when they speak.

- Synthesize, don't summarize

Knowledge of letter-sound relationships is essential in reading and writing. In order for a student to read a word they must be able to recognize the letters in the word and associate each of those letters with specific sounds. This relationship is also important when writing. Students have to be able to break down words and assign letters to the sounds. For example, if they want to spell the word *animal* they have to know that the letter *a* makes a short a sound which is the initial sound in the word they are trying to spell. If no connection has been made between letters and their corresponding sound, then the student is more than likely going to be unable to spell or identify the word when reading.

- Redirect your readers

Phonics instruction is important because letter-sound knowledge is the foundation needed to build up reading and writing abilities. You can compare phonics to building a house. Students being able to understand the text is the complete house, which is the end goal. A student's ability to read single words is the actual frame of the house. Phonics on the other hand is the foundation, it's what needs to be strong and durable in order for everything else to run smoothly. If the foundation is incomplete, then the structure and house will be faulty and most likely have problems in the long run. If a student doesn't know the relationship between letters and sounds, then there is no way for them to learn how to read or write and therefore they are unable to understand the text in front of them.

d. References

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