

Parents are a child's first teacher which is immensely important. Why this is so critical is that with involved parents reading together with their child and allowing the child to read to them, the very young may get a giant step towards being a more successful reader at a younger age. Reading literacy is the key for a better opportunity at being successful in 2014. As vocabulary and reading fluency are the main components of reading, **decoding and phonemic awareness** are the life blood of being able to recognize vocabulary and reading a given passage with relative ease. When a reader is struggling with word recognition and meaning, they must have a **decoding** skill set that will allow them break a word down in parts to ultimately read the word and discover meaning.

Decoding is a way to break down a word as you read. A word can be broken down many ways. One way that a word can be broken down is by syllables. Word relationships are created and sound sequences are mastered through repetition and a parent or teacher creating opportunities for learned phrase correlations where ultimate awareness is created as sound recognition and the visible word become second nature. Letter- sound relationships is the nuts and bolts of successful decoding and will allow reading fluency to soar as these amalgamations are more readily recognized. These patterns that are seen are improved upon more quickly if you are a parent who is going to read with your child on a regular basis. As these patterns are mastered, **decoding** becomes less cumbersome because the child, through the parent and teacher, feels safe and trusting in a loving environment of learning. When a child can feel at ease breaking down the word and discovering new words and their meaning, they are on top of the world, feeling successful and will enjoy reading more.

It is important that the parent takes the time to teach the child to **decode** and not read over the word. When you read over the word, meaning may be lost which affects the ultimate result of reading which is reading comprehension. A great addition to **decoding** is teaching kids high frequency words. High frequency words are words that show up regularly in different sentences throughout the book or passage that you are reading. This skill lends itself to aid fluency as your child recognizes and comprehends these words that they see more regularly throughout a work. When your child does this, word recognition and meaning become one and allows your child to flow more easily through the passage and become ready for more powerful words and books. There are all kinds of manipulatives available to help you create interactive word walls that can make **decoding and phonemic awareness** fun and exciting and allow for your child to not only become a more passionate learner but be more prepared for those testing opportunities that arise early in their formative years. **Decoding** a troublesome word together and teaching your child how to break down a word is a skill that through a parents loving attention can open a whole new world to your child. Early attention to this skill can be one of the greatest gifts you can give and a beautiful way to share precious time with your child.