

Phonics—Segment Six > *Phonic Pattern Hopscotch and Preparing Flash Cards*

Teaching Process

1. *Identify a List of Words that students Need to Practice Decoding*

After a text selection is identified and study of word meanings for that selection is planned, compile a list of all the words from the text that your lowest achieving students cannot quickly decode. Divide the list into manageable sections. For example, a list of 40 words divided into three lists.

2. *Introduce the Words on the Board*

Work at the chalkboard with a small group of up to seven students seated in chairs in a semicircle. Introduce each word, starting with an *HR Phonic Element* and ask the students to pronounce each sound pattern as you write it on the board. Build the word in either direction, to the front of the word or to the back.

Avoid introducing the initial sounds of the words first. Of course, there are many words that IA students could easily begin decoding linearly from left to right. Too often, however, readers who have not mastered basic phonics skills have a high rate of failure when their only strategy is to begin decoding at the beginning of each word.

Note that teaching young students to use this process does not interfere with their understanding and application of left-to-right progression when reading words.

3. *Use of the HR Phonic Elements Chart*

Write each phonic pattern on the board and ask the students for the sound. Quickly point to the picture and symbol for that sound on the *HR Phonic Elements Chart*. (Don't teach the chart at this time, just quickly refer to it without elaboration. Sometimes, just tell them the sound.)

Do this daily until students regularly use their knowledge of these patterns in their independent decoding practices. If they hesitate in identifying a sound during the board introduction, just tell them the sound. You don't want to slow the rhythm of the lesson.

As they gradually learn the sound /symbol relationships, you want them to experience you repetitively modeling the "hopscotch" so that this process is internalized and they begin to do this independently.