

Progression of Regular Word Reading

A **regular word** is a word in which all the letters represent their most common sounds. Regular words are words that can be decoded (phonologically recoded).

Because our language is alphabetic, decoding is an essential and primary means of recognizing words. There are simply too many words in the English language to rely on memorization as a primary word identification strategy.

Beginning decoding ("phonological recoding") is the ability to:

- read from left to right, simple, unfamiliar regular words
- generate the sounds for all letters
- blend sounds into recognizable words



SOUNDING OUT

Saying each individual sound out loud.



SAYING THE WHOLE WORD

Saying each individual sound and pronouncing the whole word.



SIGHT WORD READING

Sounding out the word in your head, if necessary, and saying the whole word.



AUTOMATIC WORD READING

Reading the word without sounding it out.



BEGINNING SPELLING

The ability to translate speech to print using phonemic awareness and knowledge of letter sounds.