



Reading sparks a child's imagination and inspires a lifetime love of books and learning. There are five key areas of understanding that are essential when learning to read. These key areas of reading are incorporated into our daily reading program and include:

Phonemic Awareness – the ability to hear and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. No print is involved, it is completely auditory. We work on **segmenting**, which is the ability to orally separate a word into its individual sounds, and **blending**, which combines sounds together to form a word. Beginning readers must grasp the concept that words are made up of many different sounds.

Phonics and Word Recognition – encompasses knowing the relationship between letters and sounds. This is necessary for decoding unknown words and recognizing words automatically. The English language has 44 speech sounds, and more than 100 spellings to represent these sounds.

Fluency – is the ability to quickly and accurately read letters, words, phrases, sentences and passages. Fluency is important because it helps a child understand what they read.

Vocabulary - refers to the knowledge and use of words and their meaning. The larger the vocabulary, the easier it will be to understand what is read.

Comprehension – the ultimate goal of reading. Comprehension leads to reading enjoyment, which leads to more time reading, which leads to better reading.....It is an active process which includes background knowledge, vocabulary, inference and drawing conclusions.