

Middle Sound Sorting

Short Vowels (ă, ě, ĭ, ǒ, ŭ)

What You'll Need

- Set of [Medial Sound Cards](#) cut out
- Two trays or separate spaces for sounds

How to Play

1. Start by telling your child that today you'll be listening to the middle (medial) sounds in words.
2. Use the /ă/ and /ĭ/ sound cards to begin.
3. Show your child the first picture card, for example, a rat. Say the word slowly: "R-aaaa-t." Point out the middle sound /ă/ and have your child say it with you. Then, place the card on the tray or space labeled with /ă/.
4. Next, show a card with a pig. Say the word "P-iiii-g." Emphasize the middle sound /ĭ/ and have your child say it with you. Place it on the tray labeled with /ĭ/.
5. Go through the rest of the picture cards, asking your child to help you listen for the middle sound. Together, sort them onto the correct trays: /ă/ like in *rat* or /ĭ/ like in *pig*.



Example of Sound Sense Cards

Fun Ideas to Try

- Once you've sorted all the /ă/ and /ĭ/ sounds, you can add new middle sounds to the game.
- Keep playing as long as your child is enjoying it, or come back to the game another time.

Letter Sound	Picture Cards
ă	bat, fan, rat, jam, mat, map
ě	bed, hen, web, pen, net
ĭ	pig, fish, wig, zip, six, lid
ǒ	log, dog, pot, box, top
ŭ	duck, cub, tub, bug, sun

Knowledge Builder

A medial sound is the middle sound in a word. For example, in the word *cat*, the medial sound is the short *a*. Recognizing and identifying medial sounds can help young learners with reading and spelling, as it builds their ability to hear and decode the different parts of a word.

Short vowel sounds are often shown with a curved mark above the letter (ă, ě, ĭ, ǒ, ŭ).