

Phonics

Research shows that all students benefit from phonics instruction that is explicit, systematic, cumulative, and individualized. Waterford introduces letter-sound correspondences in a logical instructional sequence.



Waterford Early Learning's instructional strands for literacy are aligned with the Essential Components of Reading identified by the National Reading Panel (NICHD, 2000).

← Less Complex ————— More Complex →

Beginning

- Alphabetic principle
- Letter recognition
- Letter-sound correspondences
- Beginning decoding and encoding of words with CVC and VC patterns

Developing

- Vowel patterns
- Decoding and encoding words with simple spelling patterns
- Syllable types

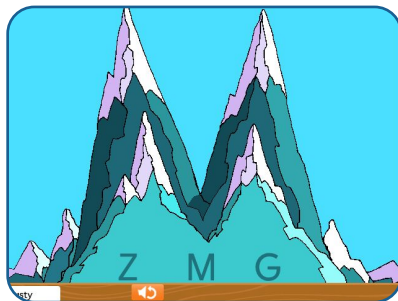
Advanced

- Decoding and encoding words with advanced spelling patterns
- Multisyllabic words
- Word study and morphology

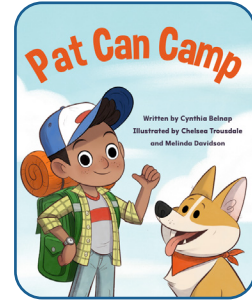
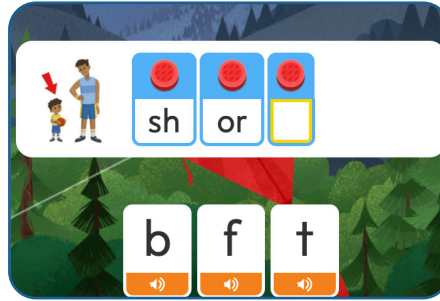
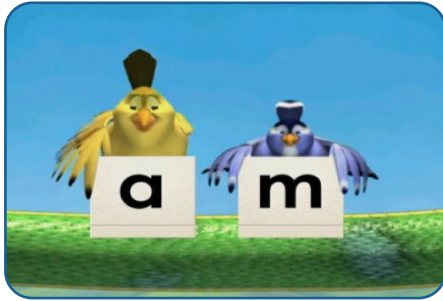
← Word-mapping Practice to Build Sight-word Bank →

← Application of Skills Through Frequent Reading of Decodable Texts →

Students receive explicit instruction in the name, shape, and sound of each letter. Embedded picture mnemonics support letter recognition skills. Instruction is multimodal: students **see** the letter shape, **hear** the letter name and sound, and **touch** and trace the letter as they say the chant for the formation of the letter.



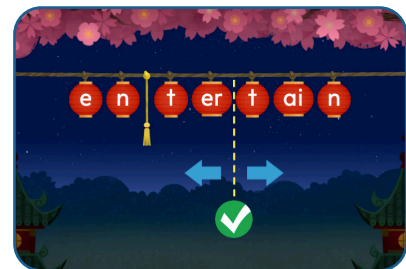
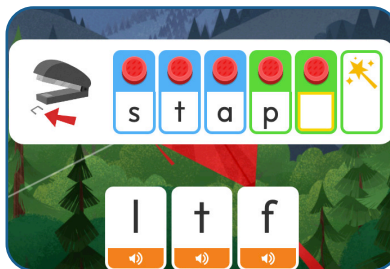
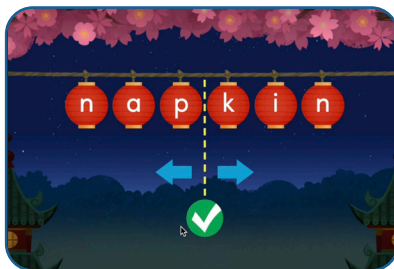
Students begin blending and decoding words as soon as the first group of letter-sound correspondences is mastered. Throughout the program, students develop their orthographic mapping skills, connecting the letters and sounds within words to anchor them in long-term memory. This process enables students to build a large sight word bank, making fluent reading possible. As concepts are taught, students apply their skills, reading well-crafted **decodable texts** for targeted practice.



The six syllable types are introduced and practiced as corresponding spelling patterns are learned.

Closed	vowel "closed in" >> short sound CVC VC	cat af/ter
Open	vowel "open" >> long sound CV V	go a/corn
R-Controlled	bossy r V-r	farm bird hor/net
Vowel Team	letters that represent <i>one</i> vowel sound vowel + one or more letters	snow night street
Magic E	long sound VC-e	snake inside
Consonant + LE	final syllable C-le	ta/ble cir/cle

Later, knowledge of the syllable types helps students decode and spell multisyllabic words.



View example Phonics activities [here](#).