

# Help Your Student Read:

## We're Here to Guide You



Dear Families and Caregivers,

We are excited to announce that we are using the new *Reading Horizons Discovery*® program to teach our students the skills they need to read and learn. Backed by decades of research and anchored in the science of reading, this reading program offers a hands-on explicit approach to teaching students how to read and write.

It allows students to do the following:

- Work with printed text/books.
- Use sounds in words (phonemic awareness).
- Read and write using spelling patterns (phonics).
- Practice Most Common Words.
- Read fluently.

[Watch this](#) to see the new *Reading Horizons Discovery*® in a classroom.



## Three Keys to Our Approach

The Reading Horizons approach focuses on three keys:

- 44 Sounds of the Alphabet
- Five Phonetic Skills
- Two Decoding Skills



The program moves from simple to complex, building skills on each other to support students' reading and spelling ability. If you would like to learn more about the approach, [watch this short video](#).

## Next Steps to Use at Home

We want to give you tools to help your student succeed.

1. See the chart below for terms and markings with examples. We use markings to help students apply and learn spelling patterns throughout the school year.
  - Keep this chart in your homework area after school to aid you when you can work with your student.
2. Remind your student to apply the skills they are learning and sound out words they do not know.
  - Use a piece of paper or whiteboard to have your student mark the word if they are unable to sound out the word.
3. Use repeated reading. It is great to have your student read the same text multiple times. Use this practice with your student to increase fluency.
4. Ask your student questions (what, when, where, why, who, how) when they read to you to build understanding of the text.

We encourage you to contact your student's teacher for more support on working with your student.



Basic Markings	
Reading Horizons Terms/Markings	Definition or Example
ma →	A Slide is typically two or three letters, usually one or two consonants followed by a vowel, that begin a word.
*mip x	A nonsense word can be a word that does not have meaning or a word that is not real. Nonsense words provide practice to students in applying their reading skills. Nonsense words are marked with an asterisk at the beginning of the word so your student knows they are not real.
map x	Vowels are marked in words by placing an x under each of them.
breve      macron	Vowels can be short or long. If a vowel is short, it is marked with a short vowel mark (breve). If a vowel is long, it is marked with a long vowel mark (macron).
bath   frog   ball x      x      x	An arc shows when a pair or group of letters stay together like in the <i>th</i> digraph, <i>fr</i> blend, or <i>-all</i> glued sound.
Phonetic Skills Markings	
dōg x	Phonetic Skill 1 helps students read and spell words with a closed syllable. When a vowel is followed by one Guardian Consonant, the vowel sound is short.
hēlp x	Phonetic Skill 2 helps students read and spell words with a closed syllable. When a vowel is followed by two Guardian Consonants, the vowel sound is short.
gō x	Phonetic Skill 3 helps students read and spell words with an open syllable. When a vowel stands alone, the vowel sound is long.
cāke x      *	Phonetic Skill 4 helps students read and spell words with a silent e syllable (vowel, consonant, e). When a vowel is followed by a consonant and silent e, the first vowel sound is long.
teām x      *	Phonetic Skill 5 helps students read and spell words with a vowel team syllable. When two vowels are adjacent, the second vowel is silent, and the first vowel sound is long.
Decoding Skills Markings	
mōtēl x      x	Decoding Skill 1 tells us when there is only one consonant between two vowels, the consonant moves, or runs, with the next syllable.
ēxplāin x      x      *	Decoding Skill 2 tells us when there are two consonants between two vowels, the consonants split.