



Decoding Conference Strategies

There are so many amazing resources out there for teachers wanting help with decoding. One of my favorites is the *Words Their Way* series. I've also attended many [Linda Farrell](#) workshops and highly recommend her work. Below are just a couple ideas you can implement.

To Develop Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is the ability to identify phonemes. Phonemes are the sounds from which words are constructed. The phoneme is the “mouth move” signaled by a letter or digraph. Below are just a few phonemic awareness exercises you can use with older students who need to develop this early literacy strategy.

Alliterative Tongue Twisters: p-eter p-epper p-icked a p-eck of p-ickled p-eppers

Imitate someone silly by spitting the first phoneme and then stretching out the rest of the word. Or, give students silly putty as they stretch the word out.

Finding Phonemes: Ask, do you hear the s- sound (not the letter ©) in ‘right’ or ‘settle’? ‘scout’ or ‘baby’? ‘table’ or ‘place’?

To Develop Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is when you match the phoneme to the letter. For instance the ‘sss’ sound (think of a snake) matches with the letter s and also the letter c.

The Shuffle: Hand out different letters to each student in the room on big pieces of paper. Ask kids to go up and spell c-a-t. Those three students come to the front of the room. Then, ask the class if they can make a new word by replacing a letter, adding a letter, adding a digraph, etcetera. The class manipulates the original word making many new words.