

PHONICS

From Known Words to Decodable Words

Students in the *PCI Reading Program* may have struggled in the past with phonics. Some may have had difficulty hearing sounds or grasping the abstract concept of blending. However, for students to become independent readers, they must be able to decode unfamiliar words. Level Three introduces students to this critical reading skill, using a uniquely scaffolded approach:

1. Students blend **onsets** and **rimes**, rather than discrete letter sounds. Limiting the number of sounds that must be blended to make a word minimizes the confusion that a variety of vowel sounds can introduce and makes blending more concrete.
2. The onsets and rimes taught are present in the 280 sight words students learned in Levels One and Two.

STEP 1

Examine known sight words to identify common onsets and rimes.

bus
book
bike

Onsets

at
cat
that

Rimes



STEP 2

Associate onsets and rimes with sounds.

/b/

/at/> /b/ + /at/> /bat/



STEP 3

Match sounds to letters.

b

at> b + at



STEP 4 Blend sounds to decode unfamiliar words.

bat