

Phonograph Approach

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The phonograph approach is a structured program to introduce phonic principles by using sound clusters within whole words. As whole words are introduced, the student is directed to look at the sound clusters in the word. Then the student is directed to find similar letter clusters in new words and associate them with the known cluster words.

Major Reading Tasks It Develops

- Decoding by analogy
- Word recognition
- Perception of sound clusters

Procedure

1. The teacher presents isolated words that contain the letter cluster. For the “an” sound cluster, these words could be presented.
fan can candy
man pan fancy
ran Stan candle
2. The teacher pronounces the whole word and identifies letter names and letter sounds of that target cluster. For example:
In the word “fan”, the letter “f” goes “f-f-f” and the letters “a-n” go “an”.
3. The teacher pronounces the letter sound or cluster sounds and asks the student for its name. For example:
In the word “fan”, what sound does the “f” make?
In the word “fan”, what letters go “an”.
4. The teacher pronounces the letter name or cluster and asks the student for its sound. For example:
In the word “fan”, what sound does the “f” make?
In the word “fan”, what sound does “an” make?
5. The teacher asks the student “What is the word?”
6. Steps 2, 3, 4, and 5 are continued until the pattern is learned.
7. The teacher presents the words in sentences and the student reads the sentences. For example:
The man canned the fancy candy.
Stan ran to fan the candle.
8. If a word cannot be decoded, the teacher directs the student to the letter cluster and asks for its name and sound. For example:
“Look at the word. Where is the ‘an’? What sound does it make? What’s the first letter”
What sound does it make, etc.?”
9. The teacher returns to the list of words and asks the student,
“How are can, candy, and canopy alike and how are they different?”

Modifications

1. The target words can be selected to teach the word patterns that are causing the student difficulty.
2. The target words can be selected to teach a particular letter sound. For example, if short “a” words are difficult for the student, then the teacher can choose the patterns of an, at, am, ab, ap so the student can generalize the concept of short “a” without separating the individual letter sound from its pattern.