
Introduction

Keys to Success: Vowels has been designed to introduce and to practice vowel sounds. The activities promote learning through fun games and skill-based worksheets. All of the included activities, games, and puzzles will provide good practice for all students, but may be especially appropriate for students who are struggling learners.

There are two main sections in the book: Short Vowels and Long Vowels. Within each section, there are four pages that have been dedicated to each individual sound. Since the activities in this book are geared to meet the needs of students in the primary grades, the first page for each individual sound is the easiest and then the activities become progressively more difficult. The games at the end of each section are provided for additional review and reinforcement of skills. As an added bonus, a few pages for helping students learn how to work with the letter *y* as a vowel have been included in the back of the book for those children ready for a new challenge.

The activities included in this book can meet a variety of classroom purposes. Some of the pages, such as the word finds or the mini-books, are clearly for independent work time. Other practice pages could be placed in a center for small groups to use. Also included in the book are ideas for whole class participation, such as the activity “A Cake We Bake.” Additionally, there are file folder activities that could be played as partner games in a reading center.

Keys to Success: Vowels is vocabulary intensive—many words are introduced and reviewed for each vowel sound. It is recommended that a card is made for each new word and then displayed on a word wall or left in a center for the children to use as a flash card.



Dear Parent,

Over the course of the next several weeks, our class will be learning about vowel sounds. The students will be completing activity sheets and participating in fun activities to help them better understand vowel concepts.

You may see some of the activity sheets in your child’s homework folder. Please review the work with your child. Note the accomplishments and/or the problems that he or she may be having with vowel sounds. As you share a bedtime story with your child each night, encourage and assist him or her in listening for the different vowel sounds. Discuss the placement of vowels in words—remember the old long vowel rule: “When two vowels are walking, the first one does the talking.”

Please help your child maintain a good attitude and build self-confidence about understanding vowel sounds. This will promote an eagerness to read as well as to reinforce the knowledge that we are all working together to achieve success!

Thank you so much for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,