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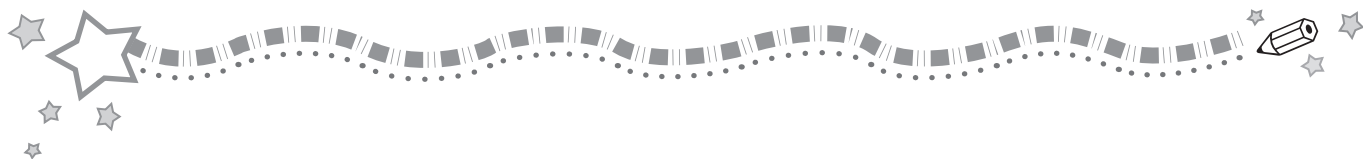
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Introduction

When encountering unfamiliar words, beginning readers use a variety of strategies to decode them. Readers may sound out the individual letters, look for familiar letter patterns or chunks in the words, and/or use the context of the sentences as clues. To meet the needs of children who are just beginning to acquire word-identification skills, *Sound Out and Sort* offers activities to help students strengthen their abilities to manipulate speech sounds in words, apply letter-sound correspondences, and discriminate letter clusters by contrasting and sorting words. The mastery of these essential skills enables students to travel with ease down the road toward reading success.

Each section in *Sound Out and Sort* is organized according to letter patterns in words, starting with CVC word families in the first section. Coordinated with these word lists are phonemic awareness warm-ups along with word-building activities. To round out the lessons and provide further reinforcement of skill development, have children complete the reproducible activity sheets that correlate with specific word-sorting exercises. *Included on some of the activity sheets are additional words from featured word families that have not been introduced on the Word Lists.* What a great combination—phonemic awareness, phonics, and word study—all wrapped up in one resource!