

SOUND-SYMBOL ASSOCIATION

in Words Their Way: Classroom

What is Sound-Symbol Association?

Once students develop phonemic awareness, they must learn the alphabetic principle—how to map phonemes to letters (graphemes) and vice versa.

Why is Sound-Symbol Association important in learning to read?

Students must be able to associate phonemes (sounds) with letters (graphemes) in order to learn to decode words. As students develop sound-symbol association for the 44 sounds of the English language, they are able to decode unfamiliar words.

How does *Words Their Way Classroom* support the development of Sound-Symbol Association?

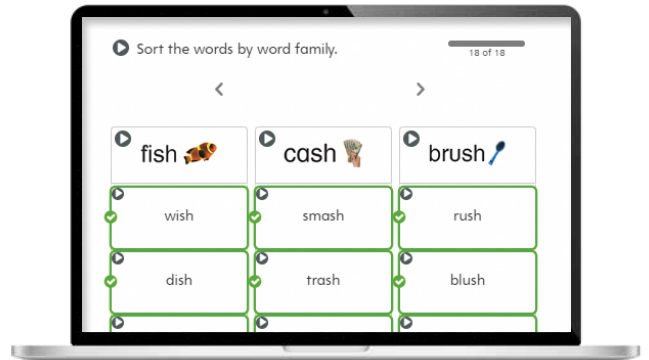
- Picture Sorts give students extended sound-symbol correspondence practice as students sort pictures by consonants, digraphs, and blends.
- Word Sorts provide additional skills reinforcement of previously taught sound-spelling correspondences when students sort words by word families, short vowels, and vowel patterns.
- The program also provides alphabet/letter games such as Sound Line, Letter Spin, and Initial Consonant Follow-the-Path games, and Push and Say activities.

SOUND: SYMBOL ASSOCIATION PRACTICE ACTIVITIES

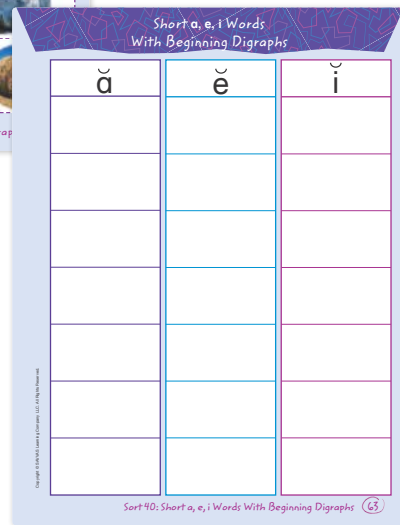
from *Words Their Way Classroom*



In this picture sort, students practice by cutting out and then pasting the pictures to match the appropriate letters.



In this digital practice activity, students drag-and-drop words to the correct category based on sound: symbol correspondence for the mixed vowel families of *-ash*, *ish*, and *-ush*.



In this writing sort, students write words that match to the correct short vowel.

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Adapted with permission from Marcia Invernizzi, presented at ILA, October 10, 2019, in New Orleans. See a similar table in Invernizzi, M., Lewis-Wagner, D., Johnston, F. R., & Juel, C. (2021). *Book Buddies, 3rd edition*. Guilford, and in Ittner, Frederick, Kiernan, & Bear, 2023. See a similar table in *Book Buddies, 3rd edition* (2021) titled "How Book Buddies Aligns with Structured Literacy Components." See also Cowen for IDA (2016). What is structured literacy? International Dyslexia Association (dyslexiaIDA.org).

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