Tools for Teaching Literacy: Reading Big Words
Content Standards

- Recognize the six syllable types and how to teach syllable division.
- Apply effective strategies for decoding “big words” to enhance reading and vocabulary.
- Recognize morpheme patterns of the English language, including base words, prefixes and suffixes.
For many children, reading long words is an arduous task. Explicit instruction in...the most common syllable types...prefixes, suffixes, roots, and word origins helps students recognize larger word chunks, which makes decoding and figuring out meaning easier.

Wiley Blevins, 2001
Sequence of Systematic Decoding and Phonics

- Letter – sound correspondences
- Simple – one syllable words
- Syllable patterns
- Morpheme patterns
Decoding – Encoding Continuum

K 1 2 3 4

Alphabet
Phonological To Phonemic Awareness
Sounds
Letter-sound correspondences
Syllable and Syllable division patterns
Morpheme Patterns: Prefixes Suffixes

Adapted from Marcia Henry
You Try It!  Syllable Spelling Activity

- **ccraoexm**: The residue found on a teacher after having cafeteria duty.
- **drowsenopper**: A student after completing standardized testing.
- **xtzierzm**: The expression made by a teacher after receiving standardized test results for her classroom.
- **interyarkinfu**: The feeling of relief felt by teachers on the last day of the school year.
Reflection: Syllable Spelling Activity

- Take 2 minutes to discuss in groups of 4:
  - Which words were harder?
  - Which words were easier?
  - How did you study?
  - What makes reading big words hard?

- Using Handout #1 (Reflections) summarize your thinking
Breaking Down Words:
Syllable Patterns
What is a Syllable?

- A word or part of a word
- Composed of one or more letters with one vowel sound
  - For example: *me, can, bake, float, i-tem, cup-cake, tox-ic, fan-tas-tic, par-ty*
You Try It! Exploring Syllables at the Sound Level

- Oral Word Play Games using big words
  - Counting Syllables with Pictures
  - Two, Three and Four Syllable Words
  - Beginning and Ending Game
  - Second Syllable Sound Game
What is Syllabication?

- Division of words into syllables
- Six syllable types
- Strategies used to figure out big (multi-syllable) words

supercalifragilisticexpialidocious
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- ab
- con
- zup
- itch
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- Closed Syllable
  - End with one or more consonants.
  - The vowel sound is usually short.
  - Diacritical mark: breve

- Examples in words
  - met, catnip, scratch, plant

- Handout # 2
  - Generate 3 additional words with closed syllables
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- sta
- mo
- ket
- u
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- Open Syllable
  - End in a vowel
  - The vowel sound is long
  - Diacritical mark: macron

- Examples in words
  - me, hobo, veto

- Handout # 2
  - Generate 3 additional words with open syllables.
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- ake
- tro
- ite
- ope
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- Vowel - Consonant-'e’ Syllable (Silent-e)
  - A vowel followed by a consonant and a silent ‘e.’
  - The first vowel makes a long sound.
  - Diacritical mark: macron

- Examples in words
  - Pipe, decide, complete

- Handout # 2
  - Generate 3 additional words with VCe syllables.
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- mern
- par
- eke
- stir
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- ‘r’ controlled Syllable
  - A vowel followed by an ‘r’ (ar, er, etc.)
  - The ‘r’ gives the vowel a unique sound.
  - Mark the syllable type with the letter ‘r’ above the syllable.

- Examples in words
  - dirt, farmer, start

- Handout #2
  - Generate 3 additional words with ‘r’ controlled syllables.
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- bain
- ploit
- she
- team
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- Vowel Pair Syllable
  - Two adjacent vowels that make one sound
  - Such as: ai, ay, ou, ow, oi, oy, ee, ea, ie, ei, oo
  - Mark the syllable type with ‘vp’ above the syllable.

- Examples in Words
  - food, boil, oat, cowboy, mainstay

- Handout # 2
  - Generate 3 additional words with vowel pair syllables.

Examples in Words:
- day
  \( \text{vp} \)

Handout # 2
- Generate 3 additional words with vowel pair syllables.
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- tle
- shout
- ble
- gle
Exploring Syllable Patterns

- Consonant –le Syllable
  - A consonant followed by an “le” comes at the end of a word.
  - There is no vowel sound, only the consonant and the l are pronounced. Such as: cle, zle, fle
  - Mark the syllable type with C-le or ‘f’ above the syllable.

- Examples in Words
  - ripple, snuggle, table

- Handout # 2
  - Generate 3 additional words with C-le syllables.

Examples in Words
- ripple, snuggle, table
- Generate 3 additional words with C-le syllables.

- idle
Unlocking the Code of BIG Words
What is the Vowel Grab?

- A strategy to teach children to begin to see a multi-syllable word in chunks.
- An activity to get the students close enough to be able to pronounce the word.
- Handout # 3 Worksheet
- Handout # 4a & # 4b (Vowel Grab) Directions + 6 Syllable Puzzle Pieces
The Vowel Grab:
General Directions

- Place a dot under each vowel.
- The vowel grabs the consonant to its left.
- Draw a ‘fish hook’ to mark the end of the syllable.
- Mark the syllable type.
- Read the word.

Example:

```
cc
mag net
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Open, Closed and Silent-e Syllables

- Mark open syllables with an ‘o’
- Mark silent-e by slashing the e and putting a macron over the vowel.
- Mark silent-e with ‘s-e’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>c</th>
<th>o</th>
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<table>
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<th>s-e</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>
**R-Controlled and Vowel Pair Syllables**

- Mark r-controlled vowels with only one dot.
- Mark the syllable with an ‘r’.
- Mark vowel pairs with only one dot.
- Mark the syllable with ‘VP’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RR-controlled Vowel Pair</th>
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<td>pool</td>
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<td>vp</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Consonant-le Syllables

- Look at the end of the word first.
- If there is a C-le at the end, box it off.
- Mark the syllable with a C-le.

marble
Exploring Syllable Patterns: Schwa

- Schwa:
  - Is a changed vowel sound
  - Makes a sound close to /ʊ/
  - Occurs in multi-syllabic words
  - Occurs in unaccented syllables

- Examples
  - about, elephant, alphabet
Exploring Syllable Patterns: The Flex Rule

In a syllable with a single vowel, the vowel will make one of these sounds:

- Long
- Short
- Schwa
The Flex Rule: Extend Your Arm and Try it!

Long

Schwa

Short
You Try It!  

Digging for Syllables in Text

- Handout #5, Digging in Text
- Read the page of text. It was taken from a primary core reading program story.
- Find and write 3 examples of words that contain the 6 syllable types we introduced today.
Digging for Meaning:
Morpheme Patterns
What is a Morpheme?

- The smallest unit of meaning in a word.
  - Morphemes can stand alone.
  - Morphemes can be part of a word.

- Morphemes units may include base words, prefixes and suffixes.
Exploring Morpheme Patterns

What is a Base Word?

- A word part that can stand alone.
- Examples
  - pretest, testing, tested
  - unkind, kindness, kindly
- Handout #6 (Word Coding)
  - Underline each base word.
What is a Prefix?

- A group of letters at the beginning of a word that has meaning.

- Examples
  - re-, pre-, un-

- Handout #6 (Word Coding)
  - Circle the prefixes.
Exploring Morpheme Patterns

What is a Suffix?

- A letter or group of letters added to the end of a word that has (have) meaning.

Examples

- -er, -ing, -s, -ed, -tion, -ly

Handout #6 (Word Coding)

- Put a box around the suffixes.
Exploring Morpheme Patterns

What is a Morpheme Unit?

- **Examples**
  - Jump + er → ‘er’ means someone who
  - Jump + ing → ‘ing’ means the process is happening
  - Jump + ed → ‘ed’ means past tense
  - Jump + s → ‘s’ means more than one
You Try It!  Digging for Morphemes in Text

- Handout #7, Word Coding Morphemes in Text
- Read the page of text. It was taken from a core reading program.
- Find 10 words and mark them using the previous code for any **Base Words**, **Prefixes**, and **Suffixes**
You Try It! Syllable Tracking

- Choose prefixes, suffixes and/or base.
- Make one change at a time to create new words.
- Handout # 8, Syllable Tracking Charts
- Write each syllable on a separate index card.
Decoding – Encoding Continuum

- **Syllable Tracking** = Decoding
- **Line Spelling** = Encoding
  - Count the # of syllables in the word you hear
  - Draw an equal # of lines (1 per syllable)
  - Tap out the sounds in each syllable as you spell

```
en code
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Nailing it Down: Reading BIG Words
Fluency Practice
(Speed Drills)

- Syllable Patterns
  - Syllables types embedded in words

- Morpheme Patterns
  - Prefixes
  - Bases
  - Suffixes
Word Level: Speed Drills

Goal: Read words efficiently

One minute drills
- Sight word drill lists (5-6 irregular words)
- Regular patterned word lists
- Count and record # of words read successfully
- Chart data
Working Memory and Automaticity

Processing Task

Working Memory

Less Fluent Reader

More Fluent Reader

Processing Task
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<th>bob</th>
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<th>job</th>
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<td>cap</td>
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</tbody>
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Colorado Reading First, 2004– Intermediate I CCRA
### Patterned Word Lists

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<th>tripod</th>
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<th>basic</th>
<th>bison</th>
<th>bonus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>agent</td>
<td>vacant</td>
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<tr>
<td>humid</td>
<td>donut</td>
<td>even</td>
<td>frozen</td>
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<td>solid</td>
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</table>

*Colorado Reading First, 2004– Intermediate I CCRA*
# Patterned Word Lists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>-cle</th>
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<th>-ble</th>
<th>-gle</th>
<th>-dle</th>
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<td>-gle</td>
<td>cle</td>
<td>fle</td>
<td>-ble</td>
<td>-zle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **bubble**
- **battle**
- **dribble**
- **apple**
- **bottle**
- **cattle**
- **sample**
- **middle**
- **tumble**
- **bundle**
- **fiddle**
- **uncle**
- **giggle**
- **jungle**
- **saddle**
Reflection: Bringing it All Together

- Handout # 1
- Please take a few minutes to reflect on THREE new things you have learned today.
In Summary...

At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book – that string of confused, alien ciphers – shivered into meaning. Words spoke to you, gave up their secrets; at that moment, whole universes opened. You became, irrevocably a reader.

- Alberto Manguel
Thank you!
This concludes the presentation.