



# Know Letters and Sounds

Keys to  
Accuracy

**Ruby  
Reader**

© Ruby Reader, LLC

# Know Letters and Sounds

## Keys for the Teacher

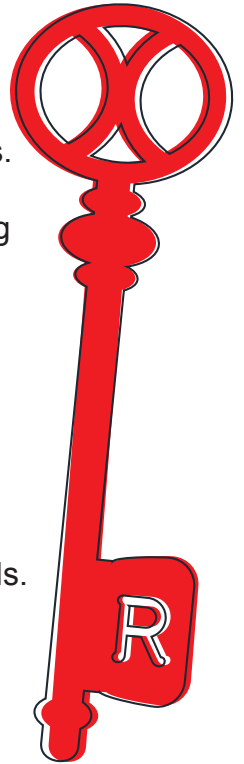
The knowledge of letters and sounds includes identification of letter symbols and individual phonemes. Linking the letter symbol with the corresponding phoneme produces a single “unit.” Children can then begin to combine these “units” into words.

Within any classroom of young children there is a wide range of skills. While knowing letters and sounds is essential, other reading skills may be introduced before complete mastery of the alphabet has been met. When strategies are layered together, they mesh and support one another. Ultimately, it is the interconnectedness of these skills that builds strong readers.

Learning letters and their accompanying sounds are tools that make reading easier, faster and more enjoyable. Feeling the sense of urgency to acquire these tools can be powerful motivation. Being in a literacy rich classroom, using print in authentic ways, and targeting instruction to need is best practice for learning letters and sounds.

## Keys for the Children

Good readers work hard to learn the letter names and sounds. Being able to say letters and sounds quickly will make reading easier.



---

## Lesson

Teaching letters and corresponding sounds through children’s names is especially effective. Focusing on one name a day can be authentic, easy and fun. Begin with first names only and then circle back around to include last names. Names provide a variety of letters to work with and give repeated practice with tricky vowel sounds. The assortment of irregular sound patterns in names can provide the next step in letter sound study. Because of the egocentric nature of young children, studying names is a high interest activity.

For many young children, vowel sounds usually require additional support. Since vowel sounds are so similar, it can be hard to discriminate among them. Rhythm chants using vowel sounds can help train ears to hear the difference. Learning to flip between long and short vowel sounds is often the first step in understanding that letters can be represented in multiple ways.

Letter-sound assessments can provide data to help drive instruction. Strategy groups can be formed to teach common missing letters/sounds to some children while the class, as a whole, moves forward.

