

# The Balanced Reader: Decoding

There are three important skills to become a Balanced Reader. Decoding, fluency and phrasing and comprehension.

When we decode we understand the sounds found in words and we are able to put those sounds back together to form words and sentences.

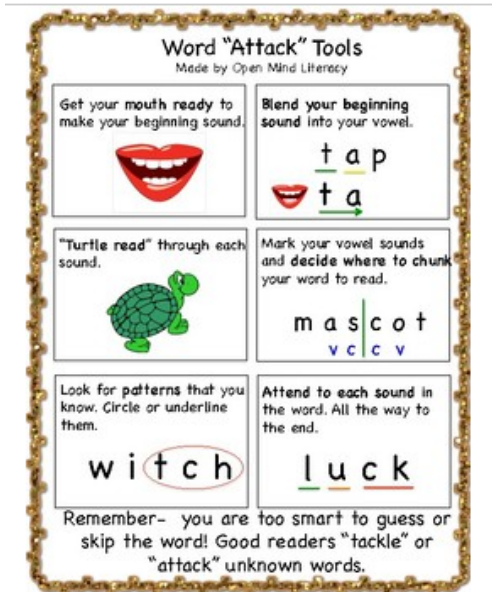


## What can parents do at home to help with decoding!

How would you help your child if they misread a word?

If your child reads “wait” as “went”:

- Help your child read through the whole word.
- Break the word apart into its individual sounds. /w/ /ā/ /t/
- Emphasize the vowel sound. Tell your child the two letters ai make the one /ā/ sound.
- Model blending the sounds together with an emphasis on the misread part of the word. /w/ /aaaaaaaaa/ /t/
- Read the word again smoothly. wait
- Re-read the phrase or sentence that contained the word. We wait for the bus.



If your child reads “strap” as “taps”:

- Help your child read through the whole word.
- Make sure your child knows the meaning of words that will help them use decoding skills, such as first, last, before, and after.
- Ask your child to point to the first letter and say each letter name in the word. s t r a p
- Ask your child to point again to the first letter, and tell them to read all the way through the word from the first letter-sound to the last. /s/ /t/ /r/ /ā/ /p/
- Model as needed, slowly reading each letter-sound. /s/ /t/ /r/ /ā/ /p/
- Read the word smoothly. strap
- Re-read the phrase or sentence that contained the word. The strap is too loose.