

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will build their phonemic awareness, learn to blend sounds into words, and increase their prewriting skills.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn how to hear and identify the individual sounds that make up words, known as phonemes. Students will also learn how to blend “chunks” of speech sounds together to form words. First, students will learn to blend two syllables to form two-syllable words (e.g., *ant* and *hill* form the word *ant hill*). Then, students will learn how to blend two and then three sounds to form simple words (e.g., the sounds /a/ /n/ /t/ form the word *ant*). Students will also learn and practice additional prewriting shapes and strokes that will be helpful to them when they begin writing letters in the next unit.

Additional Practice

Position Words				
<i>left</i>	<i>right</i>	<i>beginning</i>	<i>middle</i>	<i>end</i>

Students will continue to practice and learn additional position words. This is helpful for students to be able to identify the position of sounds within a word as well as the position of words within a row when reading. Students can practice these words each night by doing the following activities:

- Sentence Creation:** Have your student use these position words in sentences. Encourage them to create sentences that demonstrate the meaning of the word and explain its context.
- Word Association:** Ask your student to think of other words related to the position words. This will help reinforce their understanding of each word's meaning and usage.

Words for Blending Practice				
Two-syllable words	<i>cupcake</i>	<i>bedroom</i>	<i>sneaker</i>	<i>walking</i>
Blend two sounds	<i>no</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>zoo</i>	<i>knee</i>
Blend three sounds	<i>fun</i>	<i>mat</i>	<i>sit</i>	<i>mess</i>

Students can also practice their blending and prewriting skills at home. Students can practice these skills each night by doing the following activities:

- Complete Take-Home Activities:** Your student's teacher will send several prewriting take-home activities to work on together and support your student's progress.

2. **Drawing and Blending:** Invite your student to draw a picture that includes items from the "Words for Blending Practice" table, then help them blend the sounds to form the words of the items in their drawing.