

## Program Strands

### Concepts of Print

Print concepts include letter symbols, punctuation marks, spacing, and the way print is tracked. Children from reading-rich home environments come to school knowing many of these concepts while explicit teaching of the concepts is often needed for other children. One way that children learn about print concepts in *The Road to Reading* is by using word tiles to build sentences.

### Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is the knowledge that words are made up of individual sounds blended together. Skills include isolating, matching, segmenting, sequencing, and blending sounds in words. The term *phonological awareness* applies to syllables, onsets and rimes, or individual sounds or phonemes. The hardest of these is individual sounds (phonemic awareness). In *The Road to Reading*, students use chips and sound boxes to represent sounds.

### Letter/Sound Correspondence

Letter/sound correspondence is the matching of sounds to letters and letters to sounds. This matching is complicated by the fact that in the English language many letters represent more than one sound and many sounds are represented by more than one letter or letter combination. Sorting activities in *The Road to Reading* help children make these connections.

### Word Analysis

Word analysis is the study of printed words. It includes the study of spelling patterns such as digraphs and vowel pairs, as well as the study of word parts, such as inflectional endings, compounds, prefixes, roots, and suffixes. In *The Road to Reading*, students sort words by spelling/sound patterns and record their sorts in *Word Study Notebooks*.

### Fluent Word Recognition

Fluent word recognition is the ability to read words automatically and without hesitation. Fluency is important because it allows students to focus more on meaning, and less on the process of decoding. In *The Road to Reading*, students practice reading words in games and other activities that support quick recall.

### Connected Text

Connected text includes phrases, sentences, paragraphs, and longer passages. Knowing how to read words in connected text involves much more than reading a single word. In *The Road to Reading*, students read fill-in-the-blank sentences, tongue twisters, jokes, riddles, songs, stories, informational paragraphs, and more.

### Reading for Meaning

Reading for Meaning is reading words, sentences, or passages with understanding. In *The Road to Reading*, students explore meaning in synonyms, antonyms, homophones, category words, and contractions. They learn strategies for making meaning from connected text.