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XO, Malia

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SCIENCE OF READING PARENT HANDOUTS

PREP-

If you don't have it already, download and install the Kimberly Geswein font pack. (It's free on Teachers Pay Teachers [HERE!](#)). Quit and reopen Adobe before editing the PDF.

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You can type in the editable box on page 4 to digitally add your signature. You can also delete the words in the box to leave it blank and sign the letter after printing.

Reading at Home

Dear families,

As your child is learning to read this year, you might notice that the process looks very different than when you and I were in school. For instance, we'll be focusing a lot on the **SOUNDS** in words so students' brains learn to hear word parts so they can successfully connect them to the letters used to spell them.

All of the shifts you will notice are based on 70+ years of research called the "science of reading". It pinpoints the most effective ways to teach students to read. The information has been collected by a variety of experts including brain scientists, researchers, and teachers just like me who analyzed the impact of specific teaching strategies and activities to find what was most effective for students.

I'm including some of those strategies for you here so you can see the difference for yourself when you are reading with your child at home!

If you have any questions about why we're doing an activity, please reach out to me. I'm always excited to talk about our brain-friendly, research-based practices.

Sincerely,

Reading Strategies

If I'm stuck on a word, I can...

- start at the left of the word
- say each sound in the word
- blend the sounds together to read the word
- split the word into syllables so I can sound out smaller parts
- check to see if the word makes sense

If I'm stuck on a word, I shouldn't...

- look at the picture for clues
- use only the first letter of the word
- guess what the word might be

Reading Activities

At home or on the go, we can...

- read aloud together
- make a hopscotch game with letters or words
- keep a few books in the car
- turn on closed captioning while watching TV
- call out words that start with the first sound in a name
- tap out the sounds we hear in a word
- rhyme with daily activities - for example rhyme with "sink" while washing hands
- while out for a walk, take a hop each time we hear a word that starts with a specific sound
- work together to label items around the house