

# Your First Two Weeks with *Magnetic Reading Foundations*

Ensure a smooth launch of foundational skills instruction with *Magnetic Reading Foundations* by implementing these five practices:



## 1 Get to know your students!



**Beginning-of-year assessments** will help you understand your students’ strengths and areas for growth. Use the *i-Ready Diagnostic* or other assessments to understand your students’ foundational skills development.



**Build relationships with your students.** Notice their interests, how they approach books, the way they take feedback, etc. Knowing your students as both learners and people will help you be more effective as a teacher.

## 2 Adjust pacing for Week 1 of instruction.

**We recommend spreading instruction for Week 1 across two weeks.** This will allow you time to introduce new routines and procedures and help children build stamina for foundational skills work. Here is what this might look like:

Grade K	Grades 1 and 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Split Sessions 1–4 across two days.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– On Day 1, teach Phonological Awareness and Phonics.</li><li>– On Day 2, teach Letter Formation and Read Aloud! or Read Together!.</li></ul></li><li>• Split the Weekly Assessment across two days. On Day 1, conduct the Whole-Class Assessment. On Day 2, conduct the Individual Assessment.</li><li>• Teach Alphabet Books instruction to the whole class until small group instruction is established.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Split Sessions 2 and 4 across two days.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– On Day 1, teach Phonological Awareness and Phonics.</li><li>– On Day 2, teach the rest of the session.</li></ul></li><li>• Because Sessions 1 and 3 are shorter in length than the other sessions in a week, do not split these sessions across two days.</li><li>• Split the Weekly Assessment across two days. On Day 1, conduct the Whole-Class Assessment. On Day 2, conduct the Individual Assessment.</li><li>• Teach Magnetic Readers instruction to the whole class until small group instruction is established.</li></ul>

### 3 Establish routines and procedures for small group instruction.

Small group instruction is an important component of *Magnetic Reading Foundations*! Children get to draw on all the skills you've explicitly taught as they experience reading with Alphabet Books and Magnetic Readers.

**Take time to develop a schedule and teach procedures that will allow your students to work independently** as you provide differentiated instruction in small groups.



- *Magnetic Reading Foundations* instruction is segmented into four parts across a week. Each part takes 10 to 15 minutes per rotation. Determine how you will incorporate instruction with Magnetic Readers for all of your [small groups](#).
- Introduce [independent or center activities](#) that students will engage with while you provide small group instruction. Incorporate a lot of practice of these activities, gradually increasing students' stamina to stay focused on one activity for a 15-minute increment.

### 4 Build excitement for reading from Day 1!

**Find ways to connect instruction with *Magnetic Reading Foundations* to other reading experiences in your classroom.** Here are some of our favorite back-to-school read alouds you can find in your local library. Each has opportunities to point out the letters or sound-spelling patterns you'll teach in Week 1 and also connects topically to the texts from Week 1.

- **Grade K:** *What I Like About Me* written by Allia Zobel Nola and illustrated by Miki Sakamoto. Point out words that begin with the letters *m* and *t*, like *me*, *music*, *twisty*, or *tall*.
- **Grade 1:** *Be Kind* written by Pat Zietlow Miller and illustrated by Jen Hill. Point out words that have the short *a* sound, like *ran*, *class*, or *back*.
- **Grade 2:** *The Word for Friend* written and illustrated by Aidan Cassie. Point out words that have short vowel sounds, like *shop*, *fluttery*, *mess*, or *puppets*.

### 5 Connect with families.

**Introduce *Magnetic Reading Foundations* to families** by sharing the Family Letters available via digital access to *Magnetic Reading Foundations* (through the Teacher Toolbox or Success Central).

- Family Letters ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))

