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What is Letter Sounds

Unlocking the Power of Letter Sounds for Early Readers

DEFINITION

Letter sounds are the sounds that each letter makes. They are essential for reading and spelling words.

KEY CONCEPTS

Phonemic Awareness

This is the ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words, crucial for reading.

Consonant Sounds

Consonants are letters that represent sounds made by blocking airflow, like 'b' or 't'.

Vowel Sounds

Vowels are letters that represent sounds made with an open vocal tract, like 'a' or 'e'.

Blending Sounds

This is combining individual letter sounds to form words, such as 'c' + 'a' + 't' = 'cat'.

Sound Recognition

Recognizing sounds associated with letters helps in identifying and pronouncing words.

EXAMPLES

- The letter 'm' makes the sound /m/ as in 'man'.
- The letter 'a' makes the sound /æ/ as in 'apple'.
- The letter 's' makes the sound /s/ as in 'sun'.

MEMORY TIPS

- ★ Use animal names: 'B' for 'bear', 'C' for 'cat' to remember sounds.
- ★ Sing the alphabet song emphasizing sounds for each letter.
- ★ Create flashcards with letters and corresponding pictures to visualize sounds.

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Confusing similar sounds, like 'b' and 'd'.
- ✗ Not blending sounds correctly to form words.
- ✗ Ignoring silent letters, like 'k' in 'knight'.

QUICK RECAP

Letter sounds are the foundational sounds of each letter, vital for reading. Understanding consonants and vowels, along with blending sounds, helps children read and spell effectively.