

# Teaching Tips

## for Early Readers, Levels D and E

### LEVELS D AND E PHONICS FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Continue to work with consonant blends and digraphs along with short vowels to help kids decode CVCC and CCVC words. Introduce the closed syllable pattern.
- Help students use chunks to read words quickly (e.g., *s-un*; *cl-ock*; *ch-at*). Include word endings (e.g., *-ed*, *-ing*).
- Teach long vowel patterns, starting with VCe. Then move into common spellings of long *a*, then long *e*, and so on. Introduce the VC-silent e syllable pattern.
- Help children understand how contractions and compound words work when they are reading books with these kinds of words.
- Don't focus on too many phonics pieces at once in your small group lesson. Focus on what you think your students need a bit of assistance with (e.g., CVCe, word endings, or *ou/ow*).

### LEVELS D AND E FLUENCY FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Do a high-frequency word warmup before students read in small groups using words they may encounter in that day's book. Ideas can be found on page 121.
- Choose text with some words kids already know to build fluency and develop their confidence as readers.
- Remind students not to use their finger to point to every word. Have them use their eyes.
- Have children point out punctuation on a page before reading. Review what to do if you come to a period or question mark. Remind kids to stop at end punctuation.
- Help students notice quotation marks and read those parts in the voice of the character.

### LEVELS D AND E COMPREHENSION AND VOCABULARY FOCUS TEACHING TIPS

- Teach kids to think about genre—fiction or informational text—when previewing a new book. Help them identify what the book will include (e.g., characters in a story or information in nonfiction).
- Discuss characters and their feelings. Have kids show text evidence using words or illustrations.
- Retell simple beginning, middle, and end of stories.
- Have readers tell three facts from informational text.
- Have children show and use new words learned, mostly in informational text.