

SIPPS Extension Level: Support for Families

What Is SIPPS?

SIPPS® stands for *Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words*. In the *Extension Level*, your child will focus on spelling patterns. They will deepen their phonological awareness (with an emphasis on segmentation and manipulation) and learn phonics (beginning with consonant blends and final *e*, then moving on to more complex vowel patterns) as well as high-frequency irregular sight words. By the middle of the level, your child will be able to read simple trade books. By the end of this level, your child will be able to read single-syllable words with complex vowels and more than 150 high-frequency irregular words.

What Does SIPPS Look Like?

Systematic and Explicit Instruction

Routines are used daily. Teachers use direct instruction and modeling to introduce critical content, and guide your child to practice and apply the lessons to reading and writing.

Consistent and Interactive Routines

Teachers regularly repeat the same interactive routines using verbal prompts and hand movements that require your child to respond orally. The routines help your child learn phonemic awareness skills, spelling-sound combinations, and sight words.

Immediate Strategic Feedback

When your child makes mistakes, teachers use prompts to help her arrive at the correct response herself. The *SIPPS* program emphasizes understanding rather than rote memorization.

Regular Assessment

Teachers assess your child's knowledge to place them in the program. Quick assessments occur at regular intervals to help teachers determine your child's individual needs.

During SIPPS Lessons

The teacher . . .

- Provides direct instruction
- Prompts students to practice and apply skills independently
- Provides intentional corrective feedback as needed

The students . . .

- Respond chorally when prompted
- Engage in skill practice routines
- Apply skills independently

How Can I Support SIPPS at Home?

Supporting Sight Word Instruction

- Practice the sight words by having your child read the word, spell it, and read it again. If the child cannot read the word, simply say the word and then have your child read, spell, and read it.
- Refer your child to the sight word list when they ask, “How do I spell . . . ?”
- Ask your child to be a “reading detective” and look for sight words in other books.

Building Your Child’s Reading Life at Home

- Encourage your child to reread stories from previous lessons to build fluency and confidence.
- Make trips to the local library to borrow books as you are able.
- Set aside a time to read together every day.
- While reading aloud, stop every so often to talk with your child about what they are thinking about the story.
- Model good listening by paying attention to your child when the two of you discuss the story.

Encouraging Your Child’s Writing Life at Home

- Encourage your child to use the *Trace and Write* handouts to practice writing the sounds and sight words.
- Encourage your child to write every day:
 - Write about their favorite animal, place to visit, or holiday
 - Draw and label a picture
 - Write a letter to a friend or family member
 - Write a grocery list
 - Write about what they are reading