

# LIT KIT 6: VOWEL TEAM SYLLABLES 1

## Phonics

**Kit 6** helps your child read vowel teams that form long vowel sounds. Vowel teams are pairs of vowels that work together to make a single sound.

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

This kit includes nine decodable books covering three important skills:

- **Skill 1: Long E Vowel Teams (ee, ea, ey).** Your child will practice reading vowel teams that create the long E sound, as in "free," "eat" or "key."
- **Skill 2: Long A Vowel Teams (ai, ay).** This skill focuses on vowel teams that create the long A sound, as in "sail" or "play."
- **Skill 3: Long O Vowel Teams (oa, oe, ow).** Your child will read words with vowel teams that create the long O sound, as in "boat," "toe" or "snow."

### HOW TO USE THIS KIT:

#### READ

Refer to the back of this guide for more on reading decodable texts together.

- **Start with Skill 1:** Begin by reading books that focus on vowel teams that create the long E sound. Help your child recognize words with the "ee," "ea" and "ey" patterns. Point out words like "street" and "key" in the text and ask your child to read them aloud.
- **Move to Skill 2:** Move on to long A vowel teams "ai" and "ay." Encourage your child to find and sound out words like "sail" or "playdate" in the books.
- **Practice Skill 3:** The final skill focuses on long O vowel teams "oa," "ow" and "oe." Read words like "boat," "toe" and "snowman" together.

#### EXTEND

Try this writing activity to reinforce the skills in this kit!

- **Vowel Team Comic Strip.** Brainstorm and list 2-3 words from each long vowel team (ee, ea, ey, ai, ay, oa, oe and ow). Words can include tree, eat, rain, paint, coat, toe or row.
  1. Encourage your child to use 4-6 vowel team words in sentences to create a silly or exciting story.
    - For example: "A goat sailed a boat in the snow while eating toast."
  2. Have your child draw each part of the story to create a comic strip!

### TIPS FOR CAREGIVERS:

- **Find Vowel Teams Together:** While reading, stop and ask your child to point out words with vowel teams.
- **Practice Everyday Words:** Look for vowel team words in your everyday life, like on signs, menus or during conversations. Practice reading these words together.
- **Stretch It Out:** When your child encounters a vowel team, encourage them to stretch out the long vowel sound and say the sound slowly.
- **Repetition is Key:** The more your child rereads books with vowel teams, the more comfortable they'll become with these sounds.



Learn more about our  
Lit Kit Phonics collection.  
<https://www.slpl.org/lit-kit/>



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## HOW TO USE DECODABLE TEXTS:

Decodable texts give children the opportunity to practice the phonics strategies they have learned in the classroom. When children read these books, they use their blending and segmenting abilities to decode the words in the text.

### *Before reading the book:*

1. Look at the cover and ask your child to read the title or read the title with your child.
2. Ask your child what they think the book will be about.
3. Look at the inside front covers and back covers of the book to see if there is a practice word list.
4. Ask your child to read these words first as a review before reading the book.

### *During reading:*

1. Encourage your child to slide their index finger under the words as they read them.
2. If your child gets stuck on a word, wait a few seconds before you step in to help.
3. If your child needs help or asks for help, try 1-2 of the strategies below to help them figure out the word.

***"Look at the letters in the word. What letters do you see? Can you say the sounds?"***

(This prompt encourages children to focus on the printed letters and connect them to sounds.)

***"Say the sounds in the word slowly as you slide your finger under them."***

(If your child struggles with saying the sounds, you can say the sounds and ask them to repeat them after you.)

***"Blend the sounds together as you slide your finger under them."***

(After saying each sound separately, your child can try to put the sounds together.)

***"I will read this word, and you say the word back to me."***

(Use this prompt for words your child does not know and cannot sound out after trying the other prompts.)

After your child figures out the word they were stuck on, make sure they go back to the beginning of the sentence to build fluency and improve comprehension of the text.

If your child reads a word incorrectly and they don't correct themselves, ask them to go back to that word. You can help them with any of the suggested prompts above. Remember to keep it positive. If you or your child start to feel frustrated, it might be time for a break!

*Please keep this insert inside the kit.*

