

# ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

# OVERVIEW

The Lit Kit: Phonics series is designed to help children learn to read, from younger children to older children who may need extra support.

Each kit builds key reading skills, helping children become confident readers by focusing on how letters and sounds work together. These kits offer a step-by-step approach, moving from simple words to more challenging reading skills.

# WHY DECODABLE BOOKS MATTER

The books in each kit are decodable; this means they are carefully written so that children can sound out most of the words based on the reading skills they've learned so far. These types of books give children the chance to practice their reading in a way that feels achievable, which builds their confidence as they progress.

By focusing on phonics (the relationship between letters and sounds), these kits support children in learning how to read in a structured, gradual way. These literacy kits align with research that shows how important it is for children to develop solid reading skills early on.

# THE USER GUIDE: YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS

Each literacy kit includes a simple **User Guide** that shows parents and educators how to use the kit effectively. The guide offers:

- A Quick Overview of the skills covered in each kit.
- Step-by-Step Instructions on how to practice skills using the books in the kit.
- Fun Tips and Tricks for keeping children engaged, like sounding out tricky words together or pointing out patterns.
- Extra Practice Ideas for using everyday objects (like signs, menus, or labels) to reinforce the reading skills practiced in the kit.

Additionally, Kits 1, 2 and 3 include an engaging flip book to practice their skills beyond the books!

#### **HOW THE KITS PROGRESS**

Each kit focuses on specific reading skills that help children build their knowledge in a logical order. The kits are designed to be used progressively, starting with easier skills and moving toward more advanced ones. Here's a quick overview of each kit:

#### **ELEMENTARY KITS,** ideal for children in grades K-3

- **Kit 1: Basic Word Structures.** Learning the sounds of consonant letters and short vowel sounds to read words like "cat," "sip," "fish" and "chin."
- Kit 2: Consonant Blends. Understanding consonants blend in words like "stop," "jump" and "string."
- Kit 3: Silent E. Recognizing how an "e" at the end of a word changes the vowel sound (as in "cap" to "cape").
- **Kit 4: Reading Longer Words.** Learning how to read words that are a bit longer, often with endings like "-ing" and "-es" (as in "foxes" or "playing").
- Kit 5: R-Controlled Syllables. Learning how the letter "r" changes the sound of vowels (as in "car," "bird" and "fur").
- **Kit 6: Vowel Team Syllables 1.** Recognizing vowel pairs (like "ee" in "tree" or "ai" in "rain") and how they work together to make long vowel sounds.
- **Kit 7: Vowel Team Syllables 2.** Expanding on vowel teams and how vowel pairs can make two sounds (like "oo" in "moon," and "oo" in "book").
- Kit 8: Diphthong Syllables. Decoding sounds made by gliding vowels, such as "oi" in "coin" or "ow" in "cow."
- Kit 9: Word Endings. Recognizing patterns at the ends of words, like "tch" in "catch" and "le" in "candle."
- **Kit 10: Spellings & Affixes.** Decoding new spellings for known sounds (like "ph" as the f sound in "phone") and recognizing prefixes and suffixes.

#### **HOW TO USE THE LITERACY KITS**

- 1. Start at the Right Level: Each child is different. Begin with the kit that matches their current skill level. If they're struggling with basic sounds, start with the first kit. For more advanced readers, move ahead to kits with more complex patterns.
- 2. Daily Practice: Encourage children to read for a few minutes every day. The books in the kits are designed to give them just the right amount of challenge without being overwhelming.
- 3. Focus on the Patterns: Help your child recognize the letter patterns they're learning in each kit. For example, point out how "ch" makes the same sound in words like "chip" and "catch."
- **4. Repeat as Needed:** If a child needs more practice, revisit the previous kit before moving on. Mastering each step is important for their reading success.

## WHY THESE KITS WORK

The literacy kits are based on decades of research into how people learn to read. They follow a method called systematic phonics, which teaches children how to connect the sounds of spoken language to written words. By focusing on these connections, children learn to sound out words more easily and become stronger readers.

### REMEMBER!

- Start Simple: These kits build from basic skills like letter sounds to more advanced patterns. Make sure children are comfortable before moving on.
- Stay Consistent: Regular practice, even just a few minutes a day, helps children make steady progress.
- Keep it Fun: The books and guides in the kits are designed to engage children. Use the content to spark discussions or to relate to things they already know.

By using these kits, you're helping children build the skills they need to become confident readers, step by step.









