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## The importance of letter-sound relationships

- 1. Phonics for Kids
  - http://www.starfall.com/n/level-k/index/play.htm?f
- 2. Pronunciation (secondary students)
  - <a href="http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/beginner/c\_pronunciation/">http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/beginner/c\_pronunciation/</a>
- 3. Fun with Phonics, CBBC
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/funwithphonics/watch/funwithphonicsclips/
- 4. Words and pictures
  - <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml">http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml</a>
- 5. Phonics & Reading
  - http://pbskids.org/
- 6. The 44 Sounds of English
  - http://www.scholasticred.com/dodea/pdfs/SPED\_TR\_Sounds.pdf
- 7. The 44 Sounds (Phonemes) of English
  - http://www.dyslexia-speld.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Kh7hycbitgA%3D&tabid=92&mid=500&language=en-AU
- 8. Word games:
  - http://www.wordcentral.com/
- 9. Vocabulary booklet for secondary students
  - <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/studyguides/pdfs/vocab.pdf">http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/studyguides/pdfs/vocab.pdf</a>

### **Songs & Poems**

- 1. Little Kid Songs, British Council
  - http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/little-kids-songs
- 2. Nursery rhymes on YouTube
  - http://www.youtube.com/results?search\_query=nursery+rhymes&aq=0
- 3. Songs, between the Lions
  - http://pbskids.org/lions/videos/
- 4. Poetry for kids
  - http://www.poetry4kids.com/
- 5. My Pig won't let me watch TV, Poetry for kids
  - http://www.poetry4kids.com/poem-541.html
- 6. Lulu Poetry
  - http://www.poetry.com/
- 7. Haiku
  - http://www.ehow.com/how 4901102 write-haiku-poem-made-easy.html
- 8. A Shakespeare sonnet animation on YouTube
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq0eKhhsKeA

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# New types of genres/text types

- 1. Flash stories for kids, BBC
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/laac/story/sbi.shtml
- 2. Flash stories, Flash English
  - http://www.veryabc.cn/flash/
- 3. Manga Shakespeare
  - <a href="http://www.mangashakespeare.com/">http://www.mangashakespeare.com/</a>
- 4. Free online graphic novels
  - <a href="http://www.free-online-novels.com/graphic.html">http://www.free-online-novels.com/graphic.html</a>
- 10. FanFiction.net
  - http://www.fanfiction.net/

#### General

- 1. CBBC
  - http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/
- 2. Grammar in context
  - http://www.eduplace.com/tales/
- 3. Nodame Cantabile @ FanFiction.net
  - <a href="http://www.fanfiction.net/anime/Nodame Cantabile/">http://www.fanfiction.net/anime/Nodame Cantabile/</a>
- 4. Learn English Kids, British Council
  - http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en
- 5. Read, Write, Think
  - http://www.readwritethink.org/
- 6. Photo Story, Microsoft
  - <a href="http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx">http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.mspx</a>

## Tips on reading

- Encourage your child to use the cover and contents page to see what the book is about.
- Look at the pictures and talk about things that interest your child.
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have found out from the pictures in the book.
- Guide your child to use the pictures to work out what the words say.
- Talk about the book and anything that the book reminds your child of.
- Find and read words your child recognizes.
- Look in libraries for other books on the same subject.

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# How to select a storybook for your child?

- 1. About the book
  - a. Can you child relate to concepts or experiences discussed in the book?
  - b. Does you child have the background knowledge to understand the text?
  - c. Can you child follow the sequence of the book? Can him/her predict the patterns?
  - d. Can your child understand the genre or text types?
- 2. About the illustrations
  - a. Does your child find the illustration appealing?
  - b. Do the illustrations provide enough support for your child to understand the story?
  - c. Are the illustrations clear or do they need interpretation?
  - d. Where can your child find these illustrations?
- 3. About the language/structure
  - a. Is the text structure repetitive, familiar, or natural to spoken language?
  - b. Are there high-frequency words that can help your child to understand the story?
  - c. Is there difficult or technical vocabulary that might cause a problem?
- 4. About the layout/features
  - a. How many lines of print on a page? Are they appropriate for your child?
  - b. Is there clear spacing between words?
  - c. Is the size and placement of the print supportive to the reader?
  - d. Are there unusual print fonts that are distracting or confusing?
  - e. Is the text length appropriate for your child?
  - f. Are there any unusual text formats such as diagrams, charts, or maps that require explanation?

### **Good Qualities Checklist**

- 1. Have I been reading together with my child?
- 2. Have I been writing together with my child?
- 3. Have I been helping my child to increase his/her letter-sound awareness?
- 4. Have I been encouraging my child to read extensively?
- 5. Have I been encouraging my child to become a little author?
- 6. Have I been using positive feedback to encourage my child to learn English?
- 7. Have I been taking my child to the library to choose books together regularly (e.g., every week)?

Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong / Email: angellin@hku.hk Let's write a diamond poem (a diamante) together!

Title of the poem:		_
(top	 pic 1)	
(adjective)	,(adject	 ive)
(-ing verb) (-ing	g verb)	(-ing verb)
(noun) (noun)	,(noun)	
,, (-ing verb) (-ing	, g verb)	(-ing verb)
(adjective)	, (adject	:ive)