



Week One

ROOTS OF READING



Word Branch Education © WBE 2026

Week One

Suggested Session Structure(Each 30 Minutes)

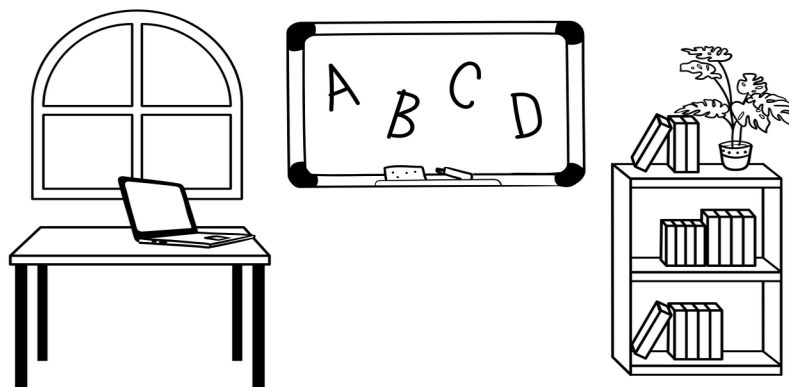
1. Warm-Up (5 min): Morning sun: a lively oral language game or song.
2. Phonemic Awareness Activity (10 min): focused listening and sound play to anchor understanding.
3. Phonics Instruction (10 min): direct teaching and practice of letter-sound connections.
4. Vocabulary Building (5 min): introduce new words

Week 1

Session 1: Recognize initial sounds (c, m, s, a, t); meet the first “seed” letters; grow words:

cat, sat.

Let’s have fun recognizing the starter sounds: c, m, s, a, and t! We’ll meet our first “seed” letters together—learning their shapes, practicing their sounds, and finding them in pictures and words. Then, we’ll use these letters to grow new words like cat and sat. Using magnetic letters (or block letters), spell the word ‘cat’. Point and make each sound, then say the sounds together. Take away the letter ‘C’, and replace it with the ‘M’, and say each sound, then blend them together. Repeat the process with the ‘S’ letter. Using the ABC Flashcards, practice identifying and making the sounds for C, M, S, A, and T.



Session 2: Sound sorting; match pictures to initial sounds; blend m-a-t — the roots dig deeper.

Let's dive deeper into sound sorting by looking at a variety of pictures and listening for their beginning sounds. Using the ABC Flashcards, the learner will select images—like a mouse, apple, or turtle—and sort them according to their initial letter sounds: m, a, or t. Next, we'll practice blending the sounds m-a-t by saying each one slowly, then sliding them together to make the word "mat." This activity helps reinforce the connection between letters, sounds, and words, making those "roots" grow stronger.

Finish the session by reading *The Reading Tree* or a book of your choice together. Have your learn pick out the letters they have learned so far.



Session 3: Clapping out sounds; review letter sounds; build vocabulary with family words.

Let's make reading even more interactive by clapping out syllables together. Choose words from our previous sessions, like "cat," "mat," and "sat," and clap once for each syllable to help identify the beats in words. Next, we'll review the sounds for C, M, S, A, and T, practicing both recognition and pronunciation to reinforce what we've learned.

To grow our vocabulary, we'll introduce "family words" that share similar endings, such as "cat," "mat," and "sat." Using the magnetic letters, repeat the exercise in session 1, replacing the first letter to form new words. If your learner is ready, introduce a few more letters. This helps learners see patterns in words, making it easier to decode and spell new ones. As we build these word families, our reading roots start to take shape, showing how letters and sounds connect to form a richer vocabulary.

