

Foundations Level K - Unit 1

Dear Family,

Carroll County teachers are providing direct and explicit teaching about “how English works.” The goal is for students to learn word patterns and apply them in reading and spelling.

This year we’ll be using a program called **Foundations**® to teach some important basics of reading and spelling. Please refer to the chart below for the skills we will learn (or review) in Unit 1. Unit 1 will last approximately 12 weeks.

Skill	What is it?	How can you help at home?
Letter recognition (a-z)	Being able to name a letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your child identify letter names. • Read alphabet books. • Go for a treasure hunt to find letters.
Letter formation	Correctly writing a letter	Practice tracing or writing letters.
Sound recognition (consonants and short vowels)	Being able to say the sound that a letter makes	Have your child identify the sound that the letter makes. Make sure your child “clips” the consonant sounds instead of putting an “uh” on the end of a sound. Ex. The letter “t” says /t/ not “tuh.”
Print awareness	Understand that spoken words can be transferred to written print	While reading a story with your child: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the printed word with your finger. • Indicate the left to right progression of words. • Note punctuation (periods, question marks, etc.) between sentences with pauses.
Word awareness	To hear an individual word in a spoken sentence	Say a short sentence. Have your child count the number of words in the sentence.
Rhyming	Words that have the same ending sound (ex. cat and hat , weigh and hay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read nursery rhymes and other stories that contain rhymes. For example: <i>Is Your Mama a Llama</i> and <i>The Cat in the Hat</i>. • Give your child a word, and have your child give a word that rhymes.
Story retelling and comprehension	Understand what has been read	Read with your child. Pause after a few pages and have your child tell what has happened in the story. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name the characters and tell how they feel. • Predict what will happen next in the story. • Tell something that you have learned. • Ask your child “Where is the (name an object)?” and have them point to it in the picture.
Phonemic awareness skills	Identify beginning and final sounds in words	Say a word aloud and have your child tell the beginning or final sound.

Did you know?

Qu is referred to as the “buddy letter” because **q** always has his buddy **u** right next to him in English words.

For additional practice activities, you may contact your child’s teacher. Remember to **make it FUN!**

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Team