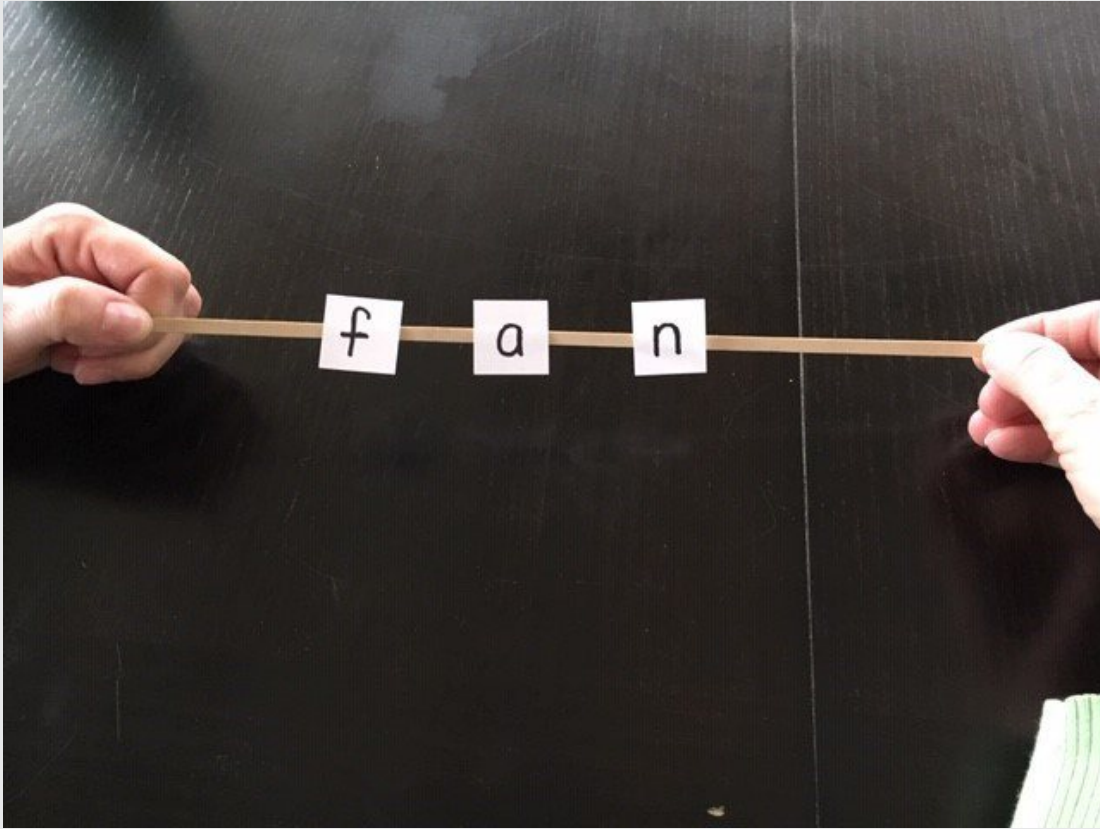


PHONICS

is the idea that letters represent the sounds of spoken language.

Mission:
READ!



STRETCH IT OUT!

Materials Needed:

- piece of elastic (rubber band or hair tie works well)
- small squares of paper
- marker
- tape

Set-Up:

- Write 3-letter words on paper squares. (ex. *cat, fan, fed, men, sit, big, hot, nod, mud, sun*)
- Put a piece of tape on the back of each letter square and stick the letters on the elastic.

Directions:

- Begin by pulling the elastic to stretch each sound apart. Once the letters are spread apart, have your child say each sound slowly. (ex. /c/.../a/.../t/)
- Now, move your hands a little closer and say them again. Keep moving your hands closer and blending the sounds each time until your child reads "cat".
- For beginning readers, use words that belong to the same word family (ex. *cat, sat, mat, rat, bat*). Mix up the word families for a greater challenge.