

Literacy

The Stages of Reading Development

Pre-Alphabetic Phase

Children in this phase do not yet understand letter-sound relationships or know all of the letters of the alphabet. They may, however, begin to understand the meaning of some non-letter symbols.



Partial Alphabetic

During this stage, children know most letter names but just are beginning to learn the relationship between letters and their sounds. They may be able to guess at how to read a word by its first letter but are not able to systematically decode or sound out words.



Full Alphabetic Phase

Students in this phase know the relationships between letters and their sounds (e.g., the letter "m" corresponds to the sound /mmm/), and they begin to use this knowledge to decode words. This decoding ability starts off slowly, but becomes more automatic with practice.



Consolidated Alphabetic Phase

In this phase children are gaining automaticity. Rather than sounding out each letter in a word individually, students begin to recognize letter patterns and combinations. They rapidly become more fluent and automatic at reading and recognizing words.



Automatic Phase

At this point, children have become fluent readers and do not need to decode familiar words sound by sound.



Source:

Early Reading Development: What by When?
By Taylor Koriakin and Michael Coyne