

PRESTON SCHOOL

Dear Parents:

Here are the phonics rules the kindergartners are learning this year. We are learning to "sound out" words. When reading a word, the child should count the vowels and note the position of the vowel in the word. The child should sound out the word from left to right, saying each single sound for each individual letter.

Rule: #1. When there is only one vowel in the middle (or usually at the beginning also) of a short word, the vowel usually says its short sound:

<sup>ʊ</sup>dig      fan<sup>ʊ</sup>      ant<sup>ʌ</sup>

#2. When there is only one vowel at the end of a very short word, the vowel usually says its long sound. (or says it's name):

gō      mē      nō

#3. When two vowels are close together in a word, the first vowel usually says its long sound (its name), and the next vowel goes to sleep (is silent):

(cānē) cane (mēat) meat (lōan) loan

#4. The letter Y is used as a vowel when at the end of a short word. Y at the end of a short word sound like i: fr<sup>ī</sup>y tr<sup>ī</sup>y cr<sup>ī</sup>y

Y at the end of a long word usually sounds like e: puppy<sup>ē</sup>  
funny<sup>ē</sup> happy<sup>ē</sup>

We will also work with the following rules and letter combinations:

Rule: The consonant letter C usually says its soft sound when followed by i, e, or y:

<sup>s</sup>celery      <sup>s</sup>circus      <sup>s</sup>fancy <sup>s</sup>circle

Sounds: ow (snow), ow (cow), ou (soul), ou (proud), oy (toy, boy), oi (coin, soil), ay (play, say), er (mother), ur (burn), ir (skirt), ar (cart), or (corn), aw (saw), au (haul), wa (wasp, war), al (ball, talk), ing (sing), ank (thank), oo (tooth), oo (book).

If you have time to review these phonics rules with your child it will benefit him with his school work.

Thank you.  
Mrs Waller