

What specific strategies can help?

- Direct instruction about how sounds and letters are related (phonemic awareness) – rhyming, identifying words that sound similar or different, isolating sounds in words, changing the beginning or ending sounds in words, clapping out the syllables in words
- Computer programs in phonemic awareness
- Listening to an audio recording while following the written word
- Instruction using several senses – seeing, hearing, touching, movement
- Breaking information into its smallest parts and teaching each part. As well, teach how the small parts fit into the big picture
- Studying word parts – root words, prefixes, suffixes, compound words, contractions (morphology)
- Studying word meanings – words with opposite meaning, similar meanings, several meanings (semantics)
- Direct instruction about sentence structure – (syntax)
- Use visualization when reading or writing – eg. paint a picture in words, ask them to close their eyes and imagine all the details of the scene and then write about it.¹
- Meaningful topics of study –writing letters to friends, job applications
- Integrating reading, writing, speaking and listening into all learning activities
- Providing a model or list of steps in a process – post on the wall & give a handout
- Allowing learners to do their projects in alternate forms – drama, video or audio recordings, oral presentations, drawings or demonstrations

¹ Bell, N. Visualizaing and Verbalizing for Language Comprehension and Thinking. Paso Robles, California: Academy of Reading Publications, 1986.