

Phonics vs Sight Words, at a Glance

ONE-PAGE CHEAT SHEET

- 1 Phonics = sounding out**
Lets a child decode new, unfamiliar words.
- 2 Sight words = memorized by sight**
Common irregular words that break spelling rules.
- 3 Use both, not one or the other**
Phonics for regular words, memorization for irregulars.
- 4 The simple rule**
Regular → sound it out. Irregular → just tell them.
- 5 Repetition builds sight words**
Rereading favorites, not flashcard drilling.
- 6 Don't quiz mid-story**
Save check-ins for after the story.
- 7 When to get a second opinion**
No decoding strategy at all after months of reading.