



Dear Phonics Dance Families,

Are you ready for the Dance? We are! The Phonics Dance is a literacy-based program that focuses on reading and writing.

Why do we need the Phonics Dance? Reading is a difficult process. Here's why: 84% of the words in the English language are phonetically correct. BUT the 16% that are not phonetically correct appear in all types of literature 80% of the time. Simply put: Most of the words we read will have letter combinations that can't be sounded out unless you know the new sound they make. Or they will be sight words that you just have to know, because to sound them out would be impossible.

Each week we will be learning sight words and two new hunks and chunks. What's a hunk and chunk, you ask? A hunk and chunk is any combination of letters that come together to make a sound you can't sound out. The only way you would be about to sound a word out with a hunk and chunk is to know what that letter combination says. You might know these combinations as digraphs or diphthongs. We call them hunks and chunks. It's just so much easier to remember!

Sh is a hunk and chunk. *Tion* is a hunk and chunk. *Ow* is a hunk and chunk. The letter combination *at* is not a hunk and chunk, because we know the sounds a and t and can easily sound the word out without thinking of a new sound the letters would make.

Our writing is developmental. As we sound out words we will be using hunks and chunks we have learned. If we only know the oo hunk and chunk and a student spells the word new - noo, that will be acceptable. As a matter of fact it will be GREAT! When we learn the ew hunk and chunk, I would expect the word new to be spelled correctly.

The more hunks and chunks we know the better readers and writers we become. The funny thing is, even when we learn all 44 of them, our writing will more than likely never be perfect. The English language is a combination of so many different languages that to write a perfect paper on our own is almost impossible. Thank goodness for spell check!

If you have any questions please feel free to give me a call. Welcome to the Dance! I hope you'll have your child chant and move and show you what the hunks and chunks are. They are the springboard to all of the literacy in our classroom. It's time to Chicken Cha Cha - the Phonics Dance way of course.

Sincerely,