

# Sample 30-Minute Student-Centered Phonics Block

**Grade Level:** Early Childhood / Kindergarten – 1st Grade

**Focus:** Short vowels (CVC words)

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## 5 min — Quick Whole Group Warm-Up

- **Purpose:** Activate prior knowledge, introduce skill of the day.
  - **Activity:**
    - 3–5 minute **chant or sound warm-up** (e.g., CVC words with the short “a” sound: cat, bat, mat).
    - Use **visuals and gestures** to reinforce sounds.
    - Teacher observes for participation, noting who is confident vs. who struggles.
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## 20 min — Small Group / Station Rotation

- **Purpose:** Targeted instruction and practice for all learners at their level.
- **Structure:** Students choose or rotate through **2-3 stations** (8–10 minutes each) or work independently if small class size. Teacher works with a small group at a time.

### Station Examples

#### 1. Build It Station

- Students use letter tiles, magnetic letters, or playdough to build CVC words.
- Say each sound aloud as they build.
- Extension: Students write a sentence using one of their words.

#### 2. Sound Detectives / Write the Room

- Students search the classroom or picture cards for words with the target sound.
- Record or draw their findings on a clipboard.
- Extension: Partner discussion to explain why each word matches the sound.

### 3. Listen and Record Station

- Students read target words aloud into a recording device or with a partner.
- Play back to check accuracy.
- Extension: Students self-assess or mark words they need more practice on.

#### Teacher Small Group Focus:

- Work with 4–6 students who need targeted support.
  - Activities: guided decoding, sound segmentation, CVC blending.
  - Adjust pace and scaffold based on student needs.
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#### 5 min — Share & Reflection

- **Purpose:** Reinforce learning, encourage student voice, check understanding.
- **Activity:**
  - Quick sharing circle: Each student shows one word or activity from their station.
  - Teacher prompts with reflection questions:
    - “Which word was easiest/hardest today?”
    - “How did you figure out a word you didn’t know?”
  - Highlight student progress and celebrate mastery.