

Word-Attack Strategies

□ **Word-attack strategies** are what readers use to identify, pronounce, and understand unfamiliar words.

Word-attack strategies that you can encourage your child to use when approaching an unfamiliar word are:

Using Picture Clues

- Look at the picture.
- Are there people, objects, or actions in the picture that might make sense in the sentence?

Sounding Out the Word

- Start with the first letter, and say each letter-sound aloud.
- Blend the sounds together and try to say the word. Does the word make sense in the sentence?

Looking for Chunks in the Word

- Look for familiar letter chunks. They may be sound/symbols, prefixes, suffixes, endings, whole words, or base words.
- Read each chunk by itself. Then blend the chunks together and sound out the word. Does that word make sense in the sentence?

Connecting to a Word You Know

- Think of a word that looks like the unfamiliar word.
- Compare the familiar word to the unfamiliar word. Decide if the familiar word is a chunk or form of the unfamiliar word.
- Use the known word in the sentence to see if it makes sense. If so, the meanings of the two words are close enough for understanding