

Units of Study in Phonics, Grades K—2  
By Lucy Calkins and TCRWP Colleagues

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**Question:** *What are some of the ways the units build phonological and phonemic awareness?*

**Rebecca Cronin:**

Throughout the units (especially in the earliest units), there is explicit teaching of phonological and phonemic awareness. There's a lot of rhyming and word play starting with a lot of phoneme isolation using Elkonin boxes, having kids hear sounds starting with the beginning sounds and words. We move to a big emphasis on blending and segmenting, first starting with syllables and then moving to onset rhyme, and then individual phonemes and words, and then lots of phoneme manipulation.

As the units progress, there's still a lot of phonemic awareness work where kids are hearing and listening for sounds, and then that is then coupled with phonics. So they'll be hearing sounds and then the letter symbols will be connected with that phonemic work as well.

For more information on the Units of Study in Phonics from Lucy Calkins and TCRWP colleagues, visit: [unitsofstudy.com/phonics](https://unitsofstudy.com/phonics)