

First Steps with Phonics

Book 4: EIGH

by Mary Cooney



The Six Steps

Step 1: See the Phonogram

Step 2: Hear the Phonogram

Step 3: Sound out words and read

Step 4: Build the words and spell

Step 5: Learn new vocabulary

Step 6: Write the words

Step 7: Review Time!

First Steps with Phonics

Materials Needed:

- small sticky notes
- cardstock

Optional (but recommended!):

- Montessori Green Language Series cards from The Little Spark Company

Prerequisites:

Before starting on this program, your child should know:

- the names of all the letters of the alphabet
- the sounds of the consonants
- completion of First Steps with Phonics Books 1, 2, and 3

Tips:

- Print all pages with word cards, pictures cards, and segmenting boards on card stock and for durability and review. Save them for future lessons.
- Consider keeping a binder to keep sentence pages, sorting pages, and handwriting/spelling pages in. This will serve as a good tool for review.
- Store phonogram tiles and word and picture cards in separate envelopes or boxes.
- Establish a daily review drill. Each day practice reading (sounding out), segmenting (breaking up a word into its sounds), and building (spelling) previously learned phonograms and words.

eigh

says /a/

like:

eight

weight

neigh

weigh



Step 1: See the phonogram.

I See an EIGH!

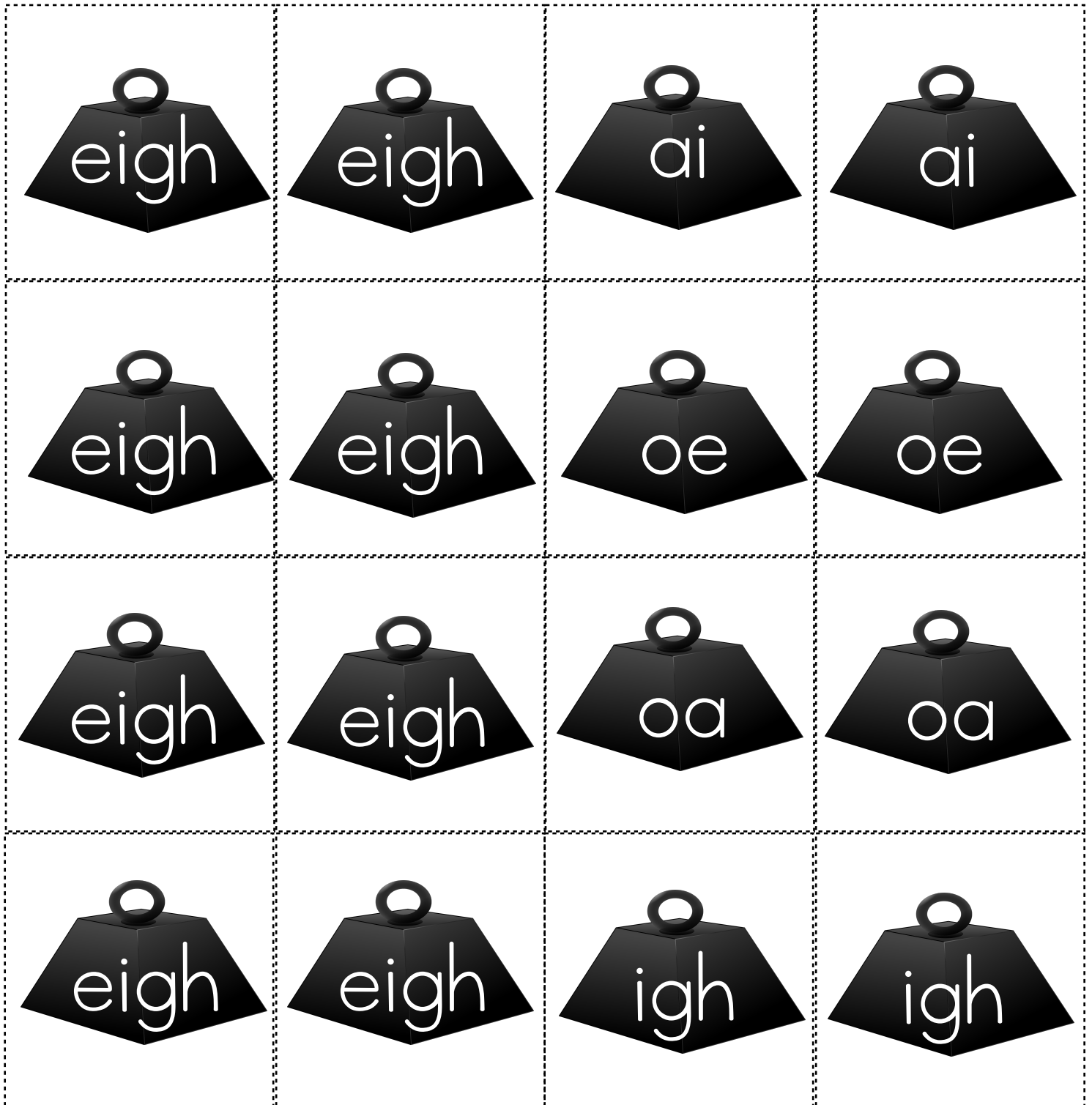
Cut out the phonograms. Place them face down. Take turns picking them up and sorting them.
Soap bars with EIGH go under the scale. All other phonograms go into the garbage can.



Step I: See the phonogram.

I See an EIGH!

Cut out the phonograms. Place them face down. Take turns picking them up and sorting them.
Soap bars with EIGH go under the scale. All other phonograms go into the garbage can.



Step 1: See the phonogram.

Find EIGH



Circle all the words with OA phonograms. Cross out the other words.

Extension: Make more on sticky notes. Put them on the walls around the room. Help your child find the words with OA.

like

weigh

neigh

wail

eight

can

hay

hoe

Remember to go on an EE hunt around the house. Hint: Check the kitchen for Cheerios, cheese, etc.

Step 2: Hear the phonogram.

Sort the Sounds

Get the OE and IGH picture cards. Cut out the EIGH pictures below. Place them face down.

Take turns picking them up and naming them. Listen to the word carefully.

All pictures with an EIGH sound go into the soap dish pile. All others go into the garbage pile.



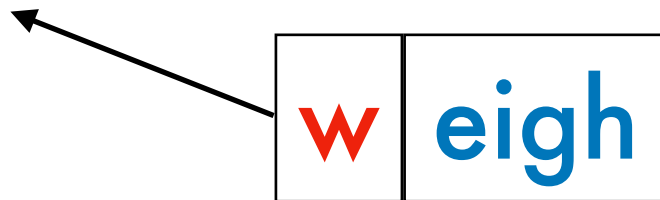
words pictured are: weigh, neigh, eight, weight

Step 3: Sound it out and read.

Let's read words with EIGH!

Activity 1 - Word tiles and picture cards

1. Lay out the following pictures from the previous activity: *weigh* and *neigh*. Help your child name them. Say the words slowly.
2. Using the tiles, spell "weigh". Slowly **demonstrate** how to sound out the word, pointing to each phonogram as you say it. Then ask your child to choose the correct picture. Repeat with all the EIGH picture cards.



3. Repeat the activity again, this time inviting your child to sound out only the **last** phonogram (EE) after you sound out the first letter.
For example: You say "w"
Your child says "eigh".
Together you say, "weigh"
Repeat this process with all the words.
4. Eventually, encourage your child to sound out both phonograms, always pointing to them.

Step 3: Sound it out and read.

Let's read words with EIGH !

Activity 2 (Optional) - Montessori picture and word cards

1. Take out all the EIGH picture and word cards
2. **Name the pictures** - Lay out three picture cards. Help your child name them and then say the words slowly, listening to the EIGH sound.
3. **Sound out the words and match** - Show your child a word card. Help your child to sound out the word and place it beneath the correct picture. Repeat with the other two cards. Read all the word cards.
4. Repeat with the rest of the cards, always presenting three cards at a time.

Step 3: Sound it out and read.

Let's read words with EIGH !

Cut out these word cards. Match them with their pictures from p. 5.

weigh

neigh

eight

weight

Step 3: Sound it out and read.

Let's read words with EIGH !

. Help your child find and sound out all the EIGH words. Then, help your child read the following sentences.

Weigh the pail.

The horse can neigh.

I see eight toads.

What is your weight?

Step 4: Build the words and spell

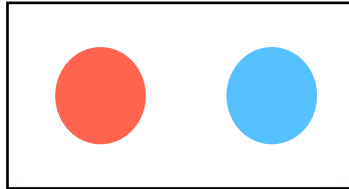
Let's build words with EIGH !

Activity 1 - Segment EIGH words

Take out: EIGH picture cards, segmenting cards 1 and 2.

Segmenting words with two sounds:

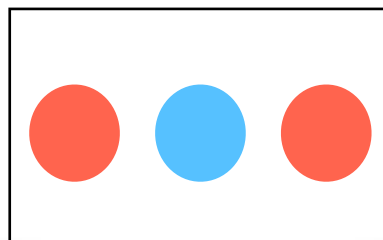
1. Take out the picture of "weigh". Ask, "What's this?" Say, "Yes, this is a scale. We *weigh* things with it. Let's say the word *weigh* very slowly. Listen to the sounds.
2. Together, say "weigh". Place segmenting card no. 1 so the red dot is first. As your child says "w", put your fist on the red dot. As he/she says "eight" move, your fist to the blue dot.



3. Repeat this several times, moving your fist then your child's fist over the appropriate dots as you say the sounds in the word.
4. Repeat this with *neigh* and *eight*.

Segmenting words with three sounds:

1. Take out the picture of "weight." Ask, "What's this?" After your child names it, say, "Let's say the word very slowly. Listen to the sounds.
2. Together, say "weight". Put segmenting card no. 2 on the table.
3. As your child says "w", put your fist on the first dot.
4. As your child says "eigh", put your fist on the second dot.
5. As he/she says "t" move, your fist to the third dot.

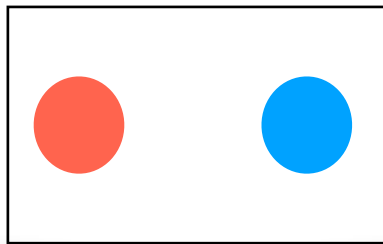


Step 4: Build the words and spell

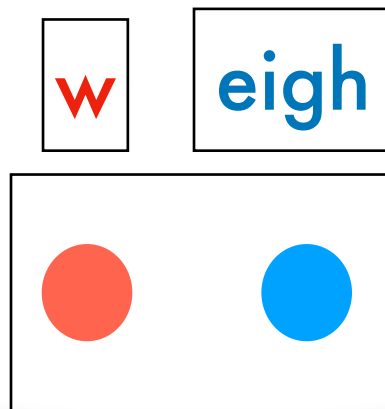
Let's build words with EIGH !

Activity 2 - Build EIGH words

1. Take out: phonogram tiles, EIGH picture cards, and the segmenting cards.
2. Take out the picture of "weigh". Ask, "What's this?" After your child names it, say, "Let's say the word very slowly. Listen to the sounds.
3. Practice segmenting the word "weigh" while helping your child move his/her fist on the segmenting card.



4. Lay out the W tile and the EIGH tile. Ask your child which tile should go above the red dot, and which should go above the blue dot.



6. Remove the segmenting card and push the tiles together. Say, "You just spelled *weigh*!"
7. Repeat all the above steps with the rest of the EIGH words. *Be sure to use the correct segmenting card.* Always give your child 3-4 phonograms to choose from, but no more.

Step 5: Learn new vocabulary

“Way” and “Weigh” are Homonyms

Homonyms are two words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings.

Way is a direction.

For example, “Which **way** are you going?”



To **weigh** something is to determine how heavy it is.
For example, “Can you **weigh** these eggs?”



Step 5: Learn new vocabulary

“Way” and “Weigh” are Homonyms

Point to the correct word:

way

weigh

Teacher or parent: Read the following sentences and help your student point to the correct word.

1. Do you know the way to the store?
2. How much does this bag weigh?
3. Can you weigh these apples?
4. Which way should I go?
5. Look how much I weigh!
6. The dog ran that way.

Step 6: Write the words

Let's write words with EIGH!

Help your child say the word, fill in the missing letter, trace the word, and copy the word.



eigh

eigh

Step 6: Write the words

Let's write words with EIGH !

Help your child say the word, fill in the missing letter, trace the word, and copy the word.



eigh

eigh

Step 6: Write the words

Let's write words with EIGH

Show your child a EIGH picture card. Have your child dictate the spelling.
You write it down, then he/she traces or copies it.

Place picture here.

Place picture here.

Step 6: Write the words

Let's write words with EIGH

Show your child a EIGH picture card. Have your child dictate the spelling.
You write it down, then he/she traces or copies it.

Place picture here.

Place picture here.

Review Time!

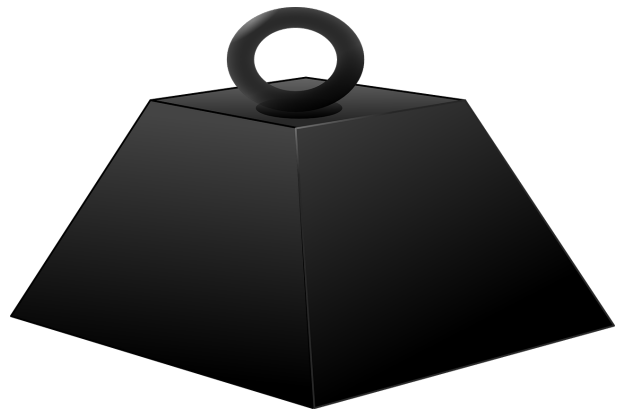
Read and Point to the Picture

weight
eight

neigh
weigh



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What's Next?

1. Teach your child to read the basic short vowel words. (CVC words). I recommend the following:
 - Pink Series Language Cards from Little Spark Company.
 - Montessori Pink Readers.
 - Short Vowel Stories, free at mercyformarthas.com or purchase at Amazon
 - Short Vowel Words: Tracing, Matching, and Spelling
 - See My Top Ten favorite Resources for Beginning Phonics
2. Teach the two sounds of S. (s and z) Practice reading CVC words in plural. (ie. cats, dogs).
3. Teach words with consonant teams that make one sound. These include words with *ff, ss, ll, ck, qu, sh, ch, th*. I recommend the following:
 - Blue Series Language Cards from Little Spark Company.
 - Montessori blue readers.
4. Teach consonant blending. I recommend the following:
 - Blue Series Language Cards from Little Spark Company.
 - Montessori blue readers.
 - Read to Me Duets, free at mercyformarthas.com
5. Teach more vowel teams, digraphs and trigraphs. I recommend the following:
 - Green Series Language Cards from Little Spark Company.
 - Montessori Green Readers.

While the Montessori readers are pretty and colorful, they are not thorough enough for a complete phonics program, especially the Blue and Green series readers. For a thorough set of decodable readers, I recommend the Science of Reading Kindergarten Decodables and then the Science of Reading 1st and 2nd Grade Decodables. I'm not a fan of the black and white pictures, but these provide ample and incremental practice.

Alternatively, you can use a complete phonics program such as:

- Raising Robust Readers
- All About Reading and All About Spelling

Remember the Steps!

For each new phonogram you teach, follow the steps we used in this book:

Step 1: See the Phonogram

- Sort phonograms to differentiate them
- Find the phonograms in words.

Step 2: Hear the Phonogram

- Look at picture cards from the Montessori Language series cards and sort which ones have the targeted phonogram sound and which ones do not.

Step 3: Sound out words and read

- Lay out 3-5 pictures. Name them. Help your child sound out a word and match it to its picture.

Step 4: Build the words and spell

- Use phonogram tiles and segmenting board to build and spell words.

Step 5: Learn new vocabulary

Step 6: Write the words

- Help your child spell, trace, and/or copy the words.

Step 7: Review Time!

- Use games to review.

A complete set of large printable phonogram tiles will soon be available at mercyformartha.com