

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

FAQ Video Transcripts

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Question: *What does daily instruction look like in the new phonics units?*

Rachel Rothman:

The phonics workshop follows a similar structure to reading and writing workshop. There are a couple of differences. It is shorter, it's about 20 minutes, and also the children during their work time aren't typically going off to their tables or any desks, instead they're staying in the meeting area. So the structure is, there's a mini lesson, about 10 minutes. In many cases it's a little bit less, and then the work time is rug time. And that might be that kids are working independently. More often, they're working with partners or in rug clubs, two partnerships together to form a group of four.

And that gives the children an opportunity to have some additional practice with the phonics learning, and the teacher has an opportunity to observe and also coach in as needed. And there are prompts that are provided as suggestions for thinking about ways to support different types and levels of learners. And then that's also a time that can be observing to notice who might maybe need some additional support and think about that it might helpful to later turn to the small group book and get some ideas for how you could give some additional support to some learners. After this rug time, there is a share at the end where it's another little practice opportunity, connected back to the teaching point.

After the share there are 2 to 3 extensions that are a few minutes each listed there as ideas for possible things you might do with kids across the day, it doesn't have to immediately follow the share, although it could if you have more time for your word study block, but it's really to give you ideas for things you can do throughout the day and week connected back to that particular skill. Such as, songs that you might sing as you're lining up to go to lunch or to go home so that they're quick and they can be repeated again and again.