

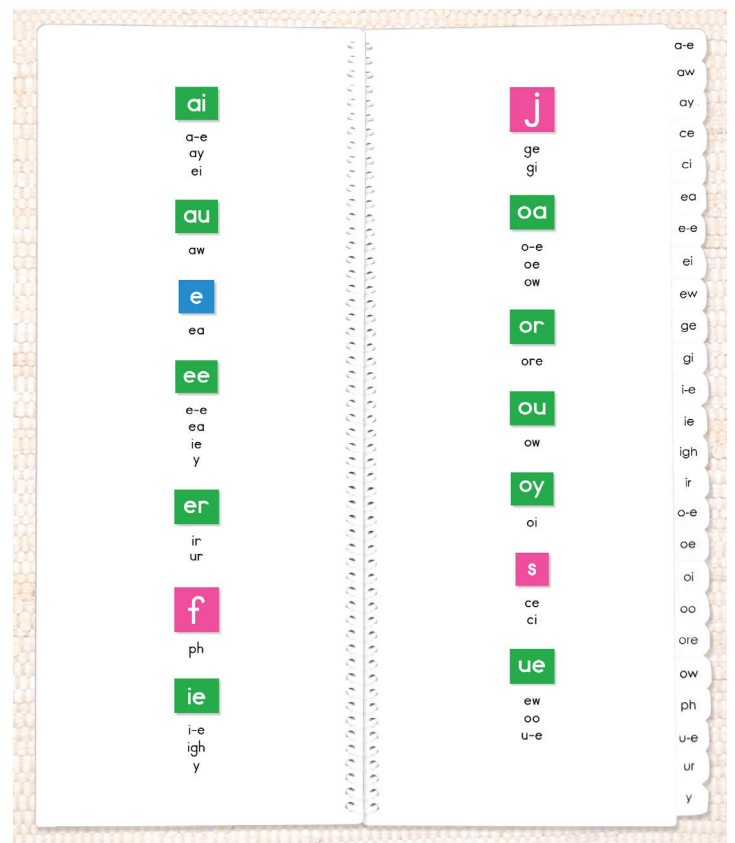
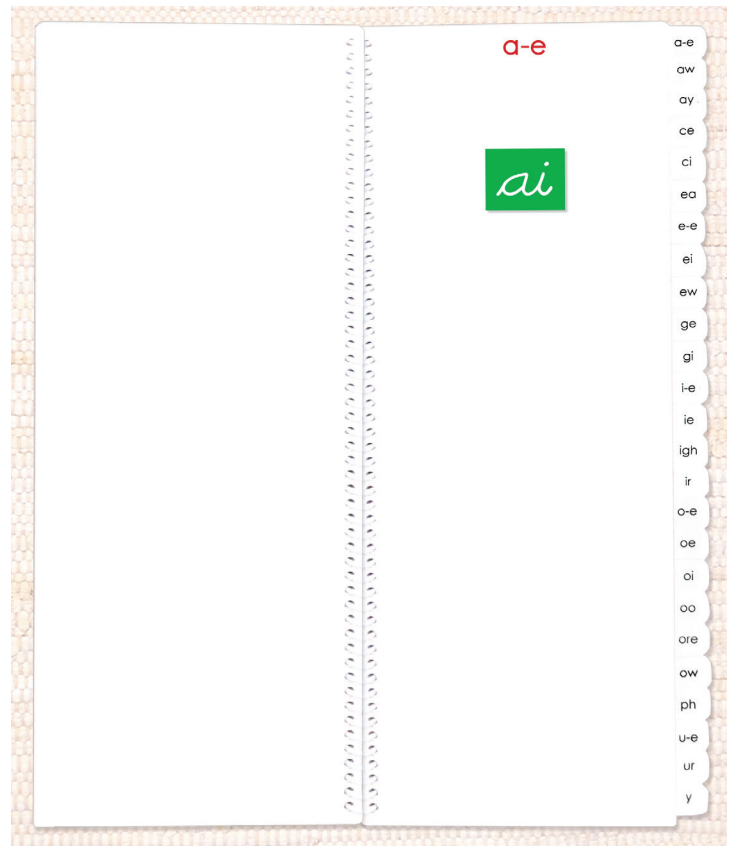
Using the Phonogram Dictionary (Indexed Alphabetically)

Background. The Phonogram Dictionary helps children independently read common spelling variations. It is based on the sounds of both the single alphabet letters (e.g., a is in apple, b as in ball) and the key double-letter phonograms/digraphs (e.g., ee as in tree, ue as in blue). The sounds of the single letters and key phonograms are typically taught via the Montessori pink (consonants), blue (vowels), and green (phonogram) sandpaper letters. Because the pink, blue, and green sandpaper letters are familiar to the Montessori child, they are used in the index at the front of the dictionary and on each reference page.

Placing the Tabs. There is one tab that matches the phonogram on each page in the dictionary. These should be affixed in alphabetical order along the right side of the dictionary pages (see photo). To place the tabs, we recommend using a ruler/straight-edge; line it up just beneath the red phonogram/spelling variation. Then, affix the tab on the right edge of the page, in-line with the red phonogram.

Activity 1: Reading Reference. When the child comes to you trying to decipher an unexpected but common spelling variation in a new word, say, “Let’s see if we can find that in the Phonogram Dictionary.” Go together to the shelf and pick up the dictionary. Ask, “What letters don’t sound right in your word?” Identify the uncommon spelling variation (e.g., a-e for the ai sound in cape). Point to the tabs and say, “Let’s see if we can find the a with a silent e sound here.” Starting with the top tab, point to each one (top to bottom) until you find the a-e. Carefully open that page and point to the key sound (sandpaper letter) referenced. Say, “I see, a with a silent e makes the ai sound. Try reading that word with the ai sound.” Help the child if needed. Put the dictionary carefully back and say, “You can use the Phonogram Dictionary anytime you like.”

Activity 2: The Test (used with the Phonogram Folders). After the child has sorted all cards in the Phonogram Folders according to their key sound, show them how to use the Phonogram Dictionary to check their work. Open up to the index at the beginning of the dictionary (see photo). Find the first key sound on the left side of their work rugs and point out each spelling variant beneath it. It should match the cards on the rug. Once they understand how to use it, let the child continue with the rest. If they are interested, they can further verify their work by looking at the key sound printed on the back of each card.



Using the Phonogram Dictionary (Indexed by Sound)

Background. The Phonogram Dictionary helps children independently read common spelling variations. It is based on the sounds of both the single alphabet letters (e.g., a is in apple, b as in ball) and the key double-letter phonograms/digraphs (e.g., ee as in tree, ue as in blue). The sounds of the single letters and key phonograms are typically taught via the Montessori pink (consonants), blue (vowels), and green (phonogram) sandpaper letters. Because the pink, blue, and green sandpaper letters are familiar to the Montessori child, they are used in the index at the front of the dictionary and on each reference page.

Placing the Tabs. There is one tab that matches the phonogram on each page in the dictionary. These should be affixed in order by sound along the right side of the dictionary pages (see photo). To place the tabs, we recommend using a ruler/straight-edge; line it up just beneath the red phonogram/spelling variation. Then, affix the tab on the right edge of the page, in-line with the red phonogram.

Activity 1: Reading Reference. When the child comes to you trying to decipher an unexpected but common spelling variation in a new word, say, “Let’s see if we can find that in the Phonogram Dictionary.” Go together to the shelf and pick up the dictionary. Ask, “What letters don’t sound right in your word?” Identify the uncommon spelling variation (e.g., ir for the er sound in bird). Point to the tabs and say, “Let’s see if we can find the ir here.” Starting with the top tab, point to each one (top to bottom) until you find the ir. Carefully open that page and point to the key sound (sandpaper letter) referenced. Say, “I see, ir makes the er sound. Try reading that word with the er sound.” Help the child if needed. Put the dictionary carefully back and say, “You can use the Phonogram Dictionary anytime you like.”

Activity 2: The Test (used with the Phonogram Folders). After the child has sorted all cards in the Phonogram Folders according to their key sound, show them how to use the Phonogram Dictionary to check their work. Open up to the index at the beginning of the dictionary (see photo). Find the first key sound on the left side of their work rugs and point out each spelling variant beneath it. It should match the cards on the rug. Once they understand how to use it, let the child continue with the rest. If they are interested, they can further verify their work by looking at the key sound printed on the back of each card.

