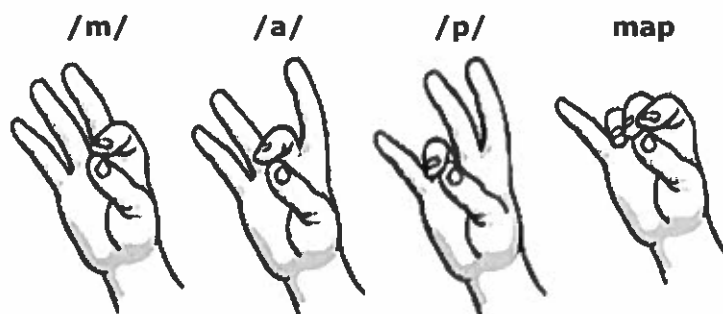


Wilson Reading Programme

The Wilson Reading Programme directly teaches the structure of words in the English language with an organised and sequential system with 12 steps. Steps 1 and 2 emphasise phonemic segmentation skills (the ability to separate the sounds in a word) and blending the sounds together again. The student learns to segment sounds within words. In addition to using sound cards, the Wilson program uses a unique "sound tapping" procedure in these early steps. For example, in teaching the word "map" three lettered cards are put on the table to represent the three sounds in the word. The student is taught to say each sound while tapping a different finger to his or her thumb, as follows:

- As he says the /m/ sound, he taps his index finger to his thumb.
- As he says the /a/ sound, he taps his middle finger to his thumb.
- As he says the /p/ sound, he taps his ring finger to his thumb.
- He then says the sounds as he drags his thumb across the three fingers starting with his index finger and ending with his ring finger.



The programme involves breaking words into sounds and syllables. The following steps in the programme build on the foundations in Steps 1 & 2, and include the teaching of:

- Consonant and digraph sounds.
- Short and long vowels.
- Skills of tapping and blending.
- R-controlled vowels: er, ir, ur, ar, or.
- Suffixes (e.g. s, ing, ed)
- Syllable types:
 - closed syllables

- vowel-consonant-e syllables
- open syllables
- r-controlled syllables
- double vowel syllables
- o Welds (ang, old, igh, etc.)
- o Multisyllabic words.
- o Silent letters (mb, kn, wr, etc.)
- o Exceptions to rules.

I will send home information from time to time on what I am teaching in Wilson so that you understand what your child is learning.