Phonics Rules

1. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes at the beginning or a word, the vowel is usually short. These are called VC words.
   For example: an, ant, end, in, up, on, ox

2. If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes between two consonants, the vowel is usually short. These are called CVC words.
   For example: short a in fast, bat, cap, rack, hand
   short i in sit, mitt, milk, lips, sink
   short e in jet, men, web, tent, belt
   short o in pop, box, lock, hot, rock
   short u in run, lunch, bus, duck, tub

3. When a syllable ends in a silent “e”, the silent “e” is a signal that the vowel in front of it is long. This is often called the magic e or the bossy e.
   For example: make, kite, rope, use.

4. Vowel Pairs: If a syllable or one syllable word has two vowels, the first vowel usually stands for the long sound, and the second vowel is silent. These are often called vowel teams. The saying is used: When two vowels go walking the first one does the talking.
For long a the letters a__e, ai, and ay all stand for the long a sound.
  word examples: away, face, play, wait, game, rain.

For long i the letters i__e and ie can stand for the long i sound.
  word examples: bike, bite, pie, lie, tie, nine, line

For long u the letters u__e, ui, and ue can all stand for the long u sound.
  word examples: blue, glue, tube, flute, suit,

For long o the letters o__e, ow, oe, and oa can all stand for the long o sound.
  word examples: bone, nose, own, bowl, toe,
  coat, foal,

For long e the letters ea and ee can stand for the long e sound.
  word examples: jeans, seat, beak, east, jeep,
  beet, seed, team

5. Consonant Digraphs: When two or more consonants are joined together and form a new sound, they are called a consonant digraph.
  Initial digraphs: ch, sh, th, thr, ph, wh, ck, kn, wr
Final digraphs: ch, ng, sh, th, tch

6. **Syllables**: Many words are made of small parts called syllables. Each syllable has one vowel sound.

   *Closed syllable*- can only have one vowel and it is followed by one or more consonants. The vowel sound is always short. For example: last, napkin
   *exceptions of this rule are ind, ild, old, olt and ost words.

   *Open syllable*-can only have one vowel sound which is the last letter in the syllable. The vowel sound is long. For example: hi, sky, skyline, me, etc.

7. **Compound Word**: is made up of two or more words joined together to make a new word. For ex: granddad.

8. **R-controlled Vowels**: A vowel followed by an “r” stands for a special sound that is neither long nor short. **R-controlled vowels are**: ar, er, ir, or, ur

9. **Vowel Digraphs**: A vowel digraph is two vowels or a vowel followed by a “w” that produce one vowel sound. The vowel sound can be long or short, or have a special sound of its own.
Vowel digraphs are: ai, au, aw, ay, ea, ee, ei, ew, ie, oa, oo, ou, ow

10. **Initial consonant Blends**: A consonant blend is two or more consonants that come together in a word. Their sounds blend together, but each sound is heard.

**Initial consonant blends are:**
- S blends: sc, sm, st, sk, sn, sw, sl, sp
- L blends: bl, gl, cl, pl, fl
- R blends: br, fr, tr, cr, gr, dr, pr

11. **Final Consonant Blends**: Come at the ends of words.

**Final consonant blends are:**
- S blends: sk, sp, st
- L blends: ld, lf, lk, lp, lt
- N blends: nd, nk, nt
- other blends: ft, mp, pt, rt