

Level 5 – Syllable Seekers: Open Syllables & Exceptions

Sub Plan Template

Teacher Name: _____ Date: _____ Grade/Class Period: _____

Substitute Name: _____ Student Name(s): _____

1. Target Skills for This Level (Check all that apply):

- Phonological Awareness (PA)
- Morphology & Word Structure (MWS)
- Spelling & Word Patterns (SWP)
- Comprehension & Meaning Connections (CMC)
- Language Development (LD)

2. Materials Needed:

- Decodify card deck Level Two
- Answer Key Level Two
- Instructional Guidelines
- Paper and pencil for notes

3. Instructions for the Substitute:

1. Set up the game with the card deck for the level indicated.
2. Group Size and Participation:
 - For 1 learner: The teacher or sub plays with the learner (1:1 session).
 - For 2 learners: Play until one learner has played all of their cards.
 - For 3–4 learners: Play until two learners play all of their cards.
 - For 5–6 learners: Play until three learners play all of their cards.
 - All learners must remain seated and engaged even after they play all of their cards. Those who are “out” monitor the group for correct responses (see Instructional Guidelines).
3. Adult Involvement:
 - For larger groups (4+), the teacher/sub should sit nearby to observe and take notes.
 - It is strongly encouraged that an adult participate actively to observe how each learner is progressing.
4. Behavior Expectations:
 - Encourage respectful turn-taking and positive teamwork.
5. Troubleshooting Tips:
 - If a learner struggles, prompt that learner to ask a peer for help.
 - Learners should give supportive hints or work together to decode.
 - The adult should provide the correct answer if the group does not know it.

HINT: Learners should remember the correct answer for their next turn!

4. Notes from Substitute:

Thank you for subbing for me today!

DECODIFY™

Overall Tips for Substitutes

Differentiation for Diverse Learners:

- Encourage students to reference the cheat sheet when stuck.
- Allow extra decoding time for students with processing or language-based disabilities.
- Praise effort and strategy use, not just correct answers.
- Use positive peer support when possible – encourage “coaching” at the table.
- For ELL students: Clarify vocabulary or allow them to respond orally or with gestures.

Learning Outcomes Students Will Practice During This Session:

- Applying phonics and morphology strategies in real-time
- Decoding words with confidence
- Collaborating with peers and using metacognitive language
- Practicing academic conversation and language processing

Suggested Prompts for Facilitating Play (Mini Script):

- "When it's your turn, read the word and/or question aloud, then say your answer."
- "If you're not sure, try to break it into syllables or parts you know."
- "Your teammates can give you a clue or strategy if you ask for help."
- "Remember, trying is how we learn. Everyone gets tricky cards!"

Teacher Prompts for Supporting a Stuck Student:

These prompts reinforce structured literacy strategies and encourage metacognition:

- “Take a second look. How many syllables are in the word?”
- “Can you figure out what kind of syllables there are — open, closed, or vowel-consonant-e, etc.?”
- “Do you see a suffix or prefix?”
- “Try tapping out the sounds and using what you know about syllable rules.”

*Encourage students to think out loud and use decoding strategies over guessing.

Student Reflection or Exit Ticket (Optional):

- What was one word or skill you used today that was tricky?
- What strategy helped you the most?
- What would you tell a new student about how to play Decodify?

Behavior and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Tie-In (Optional):

During gameplay, students naturally build essential SEL skills such as:

- Taking turns and listening actively
- Managing emotions during challenges or peer corrections
- Encouraging teammates and using respectful language
- Practicing perseverance and growth mindset when decoding tricky words

*Remind students that how they play is just as important as what they learn. Celebrate respectful communication, peer coaching, and effort.

Thank you for supporting our students’ literacy development by facilitating Decodify today!

(TEACHER USE) Notes on MTSS/IEP Alignment:

MTSS Tiered Support Being Addressed:

- Tier 1 – Whole Class Instruction
- Tier 2 – Targeted Small Group Intervention
- Tier 3 – Intensive Individualized Support

Focus IEP Goals/Benchmarks (if applicable):
