

# Support for English Learners

## Unit 5, page 42: Short and Long Vowels

Some children may have difficulty differentiating between short and long vowel sounds.

### Listen

Remind children that vowels can be long or short, depending on how a word is spelled. Say: *Let's listen to the short and long vowel sounds made by a, i, o, and u: /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, /ā/ /ā/ /ā/; /ĭ/ /ĭ/ /ĭ/, /ī/ /ī/ /ī/; /ŏ/ /ŏ/ /ŏ/, /ō/ /ō/ /ō/; /ŭ/ /ŭ/ /ŭ/, /yōō/ /yōō/ /yōō/.*

### Speak and Read

Write the Basic Words *tap* and *tape* on the board. Say: *The short a sound in tap is spelled with one letter. The long a sound in tape is spelled vowel-consonant-e. Let's practice the words tap and tape together: /ă/, /ă/ /ă/ /ă/, tääăp, tap; /ā/, /ā/ /ā/ /ā/, tääāpe, tape. Ask children to repeat after you.*

Repeat with the Basic Words *fin, fine, rob, robe, tub, and tube*.

### Spell

**Beginning/Preproduction** Distribute letter cards for *a, e, t,* and *p* to each pair of children. Read aloud the Basic Words *tap* and *tape*. Have each pair use the letter cards to spell each word. Ask: *What is the sound of a in tap? in tape?*

**Early Production/Speech Emergent** Distribute letter cards for *a, e, i, o, u, t, f, n, r,* and *b*. Read the words *tap, tape, fin, fine, rob, robe, tub,* and *tube*. Have each child use the letter cards to spell one Basic Word with a short vowel sound and then add a letter to spell another word with a long vowel sound. Ask volunteers to write their pairs of words on the board.

**Intermediate/Advanced** Read aloud the Basic Words *tap, tape, fin, fine, rob, robe, tub,* and *tube*. Have children write a simple sentence for each word in their word-study notebooks and underline the long or short vowel in the Basic Word. Ask volunteers to read the sentences aloud, elongating the vowel sound in each Basic Word.

### Sort

Pair children of different proficiency levels. Draw two large squares on the board. Label one "Short Vowels" and the other "Long Vowels." Provide each child with a piece of tape and a word card for one of the following words: *tap, tape, fin, fine, rob, robe, tub,* or *tube*. Have children tape their cards to the board in the appropriate box. Ask them to read the words aloud as they tape the cards to the board.

