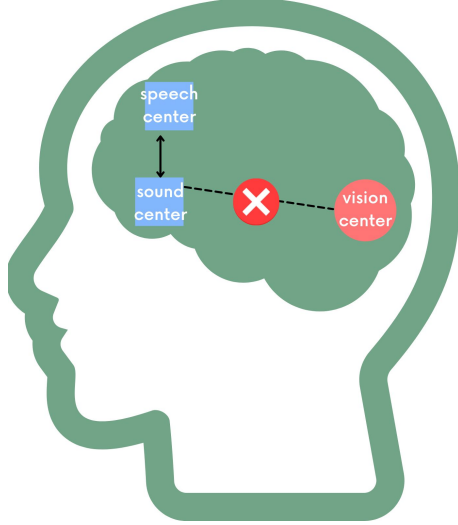


# What happens when we begin teaching children to match sounds to symbols and symbols to sounds?

Their brains respond by generating powerful new networks to connect the regions responsible for perceiving visual images, hearing speech sounds, and creating meaning out of images and sounds.

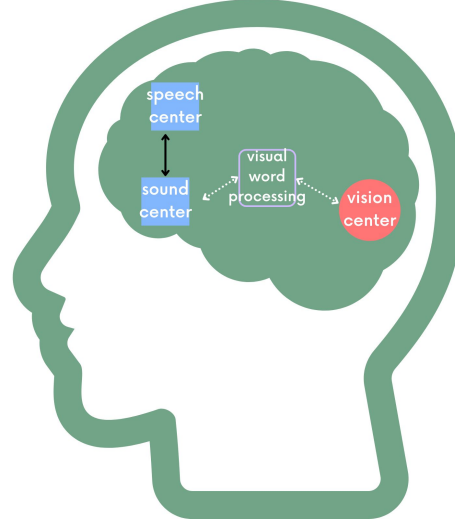
### Stage One:

Letters are just pictures to children who haven't learned to read.



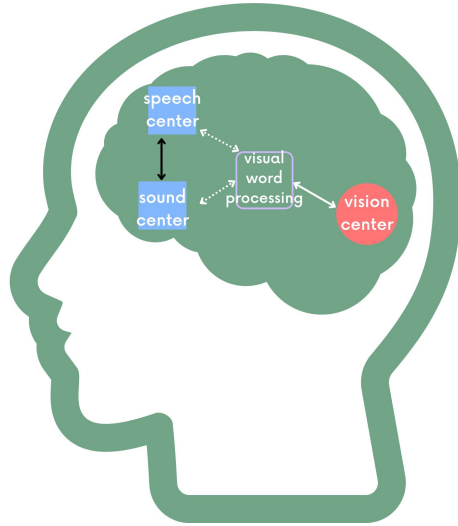
### Stage Two:

When students start connecting letters to sounds, the brain responds by developing neural networks to convert print to sound.



### Stage Three:

As students continue to focus on sounds, the brain expands its neural networks to connect speech, sound, and visual images.



### Stage Four:

The brain begins to recognize words instantly.

