



# Learning To Read



# Phase I Phonics

Phase I phonics begins in nursery. It is the critical part of learning to read and write. It is split into 7 aspects.

**Environmental Sounds** – identifying animal and instrument sounds.

**Body Percussion** – adding actions to songs, changing sounds.

**Rhythm and Rhyme** – learning when words rhyme and don't.

**Alliteration** – saying and knowing words that start with the same letter, same as there name and then more.

**Voice Sounds** – adding sound effects, making loud, quiet sounds with voice, sing songs and rhymes.

**Blending and Segmenting** – using sound talk c-a-t, identifying syllables, orally blend and segment. How many sounds can you hear?

Until children can do these things there is no point teaching them graphemes as they will not be able to make them into words.

# Letter sounds

Letter sounds (phonemes) are taught in this order in line with letters and sounds (phonics):

Phase 2 – initial letter sounds

s a t p            i n m d            g o c k            ck e u r            h b f l  
ff ll ss

Phase 3 – first vowel digraphs and trigraphs

J v w x            y z zz qu            sh ch th ng            ai ee igh oa  
oo ar or            ur ow oi er            ear air ure

Phase 4 - vowel consonant clusters at the beginning and end of words.

Phase 5 – alternative spellings

ai ou ie ea            oy, ir, ue, aw            wh, ph, ew, oe, au, ey            a\_e, e\_e, i\_e,  
o\_e, u\_e            i, o, c, g, u            ow, ie, ea, er            a, y, ch, ou

# How to say the letter sounds

It is very important not to put an 'u' sound on the end of each letter for your child to be able to blend sounds together to read words.

Example: cat ~ cu a tu      bin ~ bu i nu      log ~ lu o gu

Pure sounds (without putting 'u' on the end).

Example: c-a-t      b-i-n      l-o-g (sound buttons)

s a t p                  i n m d                  g o c k

ck e u r                  h b f,ff l,ll ss

j v w x                  y z,zz qu

# Have a go

See how many 2/3 letter words you can make using the family of letters below. Remember to read them using the pure sounds (without putting 'u' on the end).

s a t p

i n m d

g o c k

ck e u r

h b f,ff l,ll ss

j v w x

y z,zz qu

# Reading books

Your child will already have picture books for you to make up your own stories using the pictures (a very early reading skill).

Your child will now begin to blend letters using pure sounds, to read simple words by sounding them out e.g. c-a-t

There are of course those words which cannot be read by sounding out (high frequency words) e.g.

the            said            come            to            no            me

Your child will need to learn these 'tricky' words and recognise them by sight these often feature in our weekly spelling homework. We also have some bookmarks for you to take home for your child.

# How will my child read books in school and how often?

- Shared reading - whole class sharing a book together (daily).
- Phonics lessons – split into ability groups (daily)
- Interacting with stories on the computer (available daily).
- Selecting books to read at home (children can change their books as often as they like by putting them into the box).
- Environmental print - reading words around the school (available daily).
- Guided reading - small groups of children reading the same book with adult support (twice a week).
- Individual reading – your child reading with an adult in school being given specific help (twice a week)

# Book Banding

We measure each child's reading ability using a book colour banding scheme, this allows us to select books from different 'reading schemes' ensuring a much broader choice of texts for each child.

The children work through the colour bands until they are secure and confident readers (usually around year 2 and 3)

They begin in reception on Pink band and then work through Red, yellow, blue, green, orange, turquoise, purple, gold, white.

Children should be able to read fluently and at a reasonable speed by the end of year 2. (purple/gold book band)

# Guided reading

This experience helps your child learn how to read in a relaxed atmosphere with a group of children at a similar stage in their reading.

Your child is taught reading skills by the support of an adult and the other children in the group. They learn from each other.

As a group they answer questions about the story, locate specific pages of interest and learn 'book handling' skills.

We will have a look at a group of children reading together in a guided read when we go back into the classroom.

# How can I help my child at home?

**Remember** to always use 'pure' sounds.

**Enjoy** reading, make it fun and informal.

**Arrange** letters from your child's phonics phase to make real words in family groups. (post it's, lego)

**Daily** reading (school book and/or own books from home).

**Inform** us by writing in the reading record book.

**New** letters ask your child the letter sounds they have learnt today.

**Games** are a great way of teaching children letters and words.

*Cbeebies storytime app, phonics play, alphablocks games, phonics bug.*