



Parents' Guide to Phonics (Learning to read and write)



Children are taught that letters, or groups of letters, make particular sounds for example c and h together make the sound ch as in chip. These sounds (phonemes) are grouped into phases and taught in a particular order.

Breakdown of Phases

Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5 *
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 ch, sh, th, ng ai – rain, ee – see, igh - light, oa - goat oo – book, food, ar - car, or- fork, ur – fur ow - cow, oi- coin, ear - beard, air - chair, ure - pure, er – her	The focus in phase 4 is reading and writing words which contain phase 3 phonemes and consonant clusters e.g. str, tr, gl, fl etc string, trash, glad	New graphemes ay – day, ou – out, ie – tie, ea – eat, oy – boy, ir - girl, ue – blue, aw – saw, wh – when, ph – dolphin, ew – new, oe – toe, au – Paul, a-e - take , e-e - these , i-e - time , o-e - home , u-e - flute or cube

*In addition to the new graphemes taught in Phase 5, children are also taught alternative pronunciation for phonemes - for example ch can also make a ck sound as in Christmas or sh sound as in chef.

Tricky Words to Read

Certain words cannot be segmented to read (sounded out) and the children simply need to learn these tricky words.

Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5 *
The, to, l, go, into, no	we, me, be, was, no, go, my, you, they, her, all, are	Said, so, she, he, have, like, some, come, were, there, little, one, do, when, out, what,	Oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked, Water, where, who, again, thought, though, work, mouse, many, laughed, because, different, any, eyes, friends, once, please

Details of the phonemes that are being taught each week will be stuck into your child's reading diary at the beginning of each week. (Another reason why it is important the reading diaries are in school daily).

Phonics Screening

The Phonics screening check is a compulsory assessment that all children in Year 1 in England must take. It is used to assess a child's phonic decoding skills. The 40 words in the check are split into sections progressing from simple word structures to trickier words with five or six letters. The check is administered by your child's teacher during the designated phonics screening week which will take place in Summer 2.

Dictionary of terms

Phoneme - a sound as it is read (for example c and h together are read ch, chip has 3 phonemes – ch/i/p,

Grapheme - a sound how it is written (for example ee/ea/ey all make the same sound/phoneme but are spelt differently

Digraph - a sound made up of 2 letters (for example ch as in chip or as in star)

Trigraph - a sound made up of 3 letters (for example igh as in light)

Split digraph - 2 letters that make 1 sound but they are split and have a letter in between. All split digraphs have an e on the end but not all words with an e on the end are split digraph (Complicated isn't it!) the 5 split digraphs are:

a-e as in take , e-e as in these , i-e as in time , o-e as in home , u-e as in flute or cube

Blending – bringing the sounds in a word together to read a word – ch/i/p/ becomes chip

Segmenting – splitting a word into sounds to spell chip becomes ch/i/p/

Tricky words – words that cannot be 'sounded out'

High frequency words – common words that the child will come across frequently in their reading

Useful Websites

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures>

http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop_v4.html

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/welcome/home/reading-owl/fun-ideas>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml>