



# Phonics in Reception



Phonics is important for children to become successful in reading and writing.

## What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- \* recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- \* identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and
- \* blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

It is important that the sound is articulated clearly and precisely.

## How is phonics taught in reception?

### Phase 1 (first few weeks)

- \* Listening and recognise sounds in the environment
- \* Joining in with rhymes
- \* Identifying words that rhyme

### Phase 2- learning phonemes to read and write simple words

The children will learn 4 phonemes a week. Each phoneme will be taught through a short session where the children will be introduced to the sound through a song.

- \* Model handwriting
- \* Segmenting and blending (spelling and reading)
- \* Model spelling (t-a-p, phoneme frames, sound buttons).
- \* During these sessions the children are also shown HF words.
- \* Practise – In class the children practise articulating sounds, writing the sound, 'activity sheets', reading, practical games, weekly adult led writing tasks.



### How can I help my child at home?

Read as often as you can with your child using Oxford Owl, Bug Club and books from home

Words- children will receive high frequency words to practise reading at home and recognising these in books.

Each week you will receive an email of the 4 phonemes the children have learnt. Practise recognising and saying the phonemes.

For example:

- \* Find things in the house that begin with the phoneme
- \* say a word, ask them to choose the correct graphemes that represent the word.
- \* How quick can they tell you the phonemes? Can they get quicker at recognising the phonemes
- \* Writing the grapheme (chalk/ in sand)
- \* Blend phonemes to create a word

Games on the move

- \* On the school journeys, use the opportunity to play games such as 'I spy' using the sounds not letter names.
- \* Time to practise blending/segmenting. (robot arms)
- \* Questions such as; how many phonemes in 'cat'? c-a-t (3)

### Useful links

- \* [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- \* [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)
- \* [http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)
- \* <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-games.html>
- \* [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk)
- \* [http://www.familylearning.org.uk/reading\\_printables.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/reading_printables.html)
- \* <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/sound-pronunciation-guide/> -say the sounds correctly
- \* Ten Top Tips for getting started with phonics.(Ruth Miskin)  
<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-owl/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>

### Language and Understanding

#### Helping your child

- \* Model simple sentences when talking to your child
- \* Give simple and clear instructions for the child to follow
- \* Encourage independence when following instructions



## Vocabulary

<b>Phoneme</b>	smallest unit of sound in a word represented by letters or groups of letters.  Examples:  s as in s-a-t,  sh as in sh-i-p,  igh as in h-igh.
<b>Digraph</b>	Two letters that make one sound. <b>Sh- ship</b>
<b>Trigraph</b>	Three letters that make one sound <b>lgh -high</b>

<b>Band</b>	<b>Colour</b>
1	Pink
2	Red
3	Yellow
4	Blue
5	Green
6	Orange
7	Turquoise
8	Purple
9	Gold
10	White
11	Lime

## Vocabulary

### **Grapheme**

The written letter.

Example- the sound s can be represented by the grapheme s.

### **GPC**

Grapheme-phoneme Correspondence. Simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in English and ways of writing them.

### **CVC word**

Consonant, vowel, consonant. h – i – t

### **Blending**

When children say sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sound together until they can hear what the word is.

### **Segmenting**

Opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. A vital skill to being able to spell words.