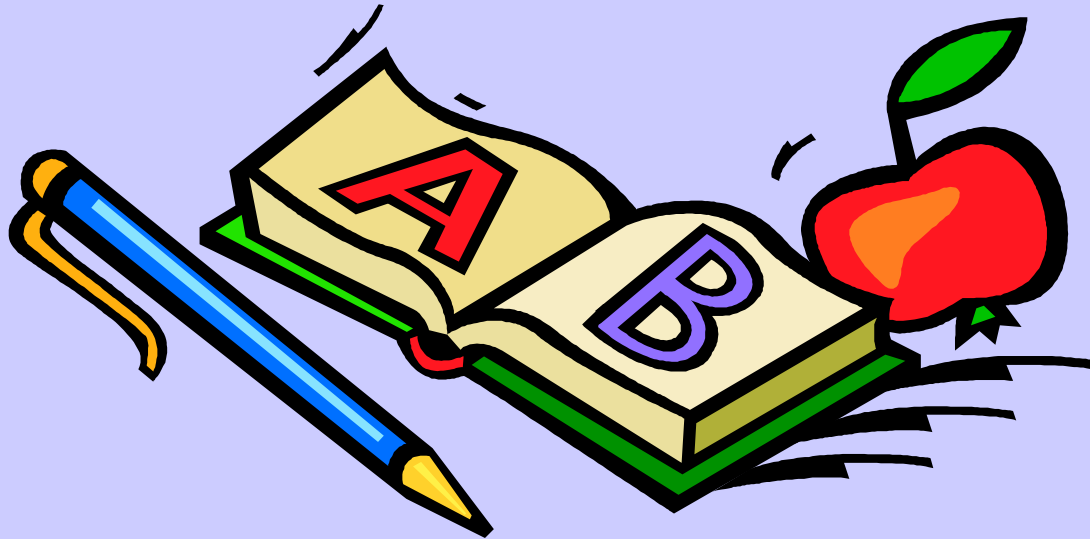


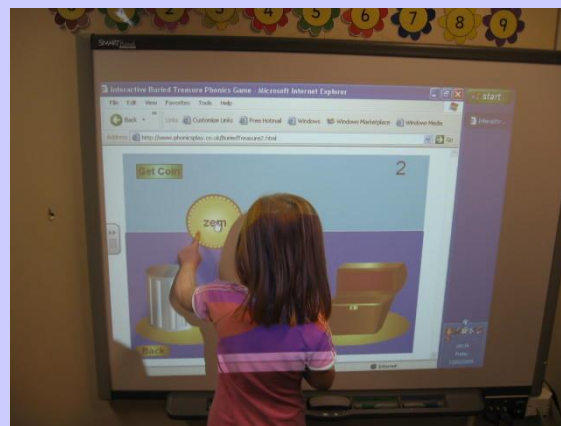
Letters and Sounds



Synthetic Phonics

What are Synthetic Phonics?

Synthetic Phonics is a tried and tested method to teach young children to read and write and spell common words with fluency and confidence by the time they reach the end of Key Stage 1.



Phase 1 - Usually in Nursery / Playgroup

Recognises the importance of developing speaking and listening skills.

'The more words children know and understand before they start on a systematic programme of phonics, the better equipped they are to succeed.'

Provides opportunities for children to listen carefully and talk about what they see, hear and do,

The activities are mainly adult led, although they may include freely chosen activities.

Phase 1

There are seven aspects...

- 1 - Environmental sounds
- 2 - Instrumental sounds
- 3 - Body percussion
- 4 - Rhythm and rhyme
- 5 - Alliteration
- 6 - Voice sounds
- 7 - Oral blending and segmenting



Phase 2

This phase begins in Reception and lasts approx 6 weeks.

In this phase the children learn 19 letter sounds.

The children move on from oral blending and segmenting to blending and segmenting with letters.

Taught in daily sessions of approx 20 mins.

Opportunities for children to use and apply their phonic skills throughout the day.

Emphasis on multi-sensory approach.



Phase 2 Sound Progression

We teach one set of letters per week as follows...

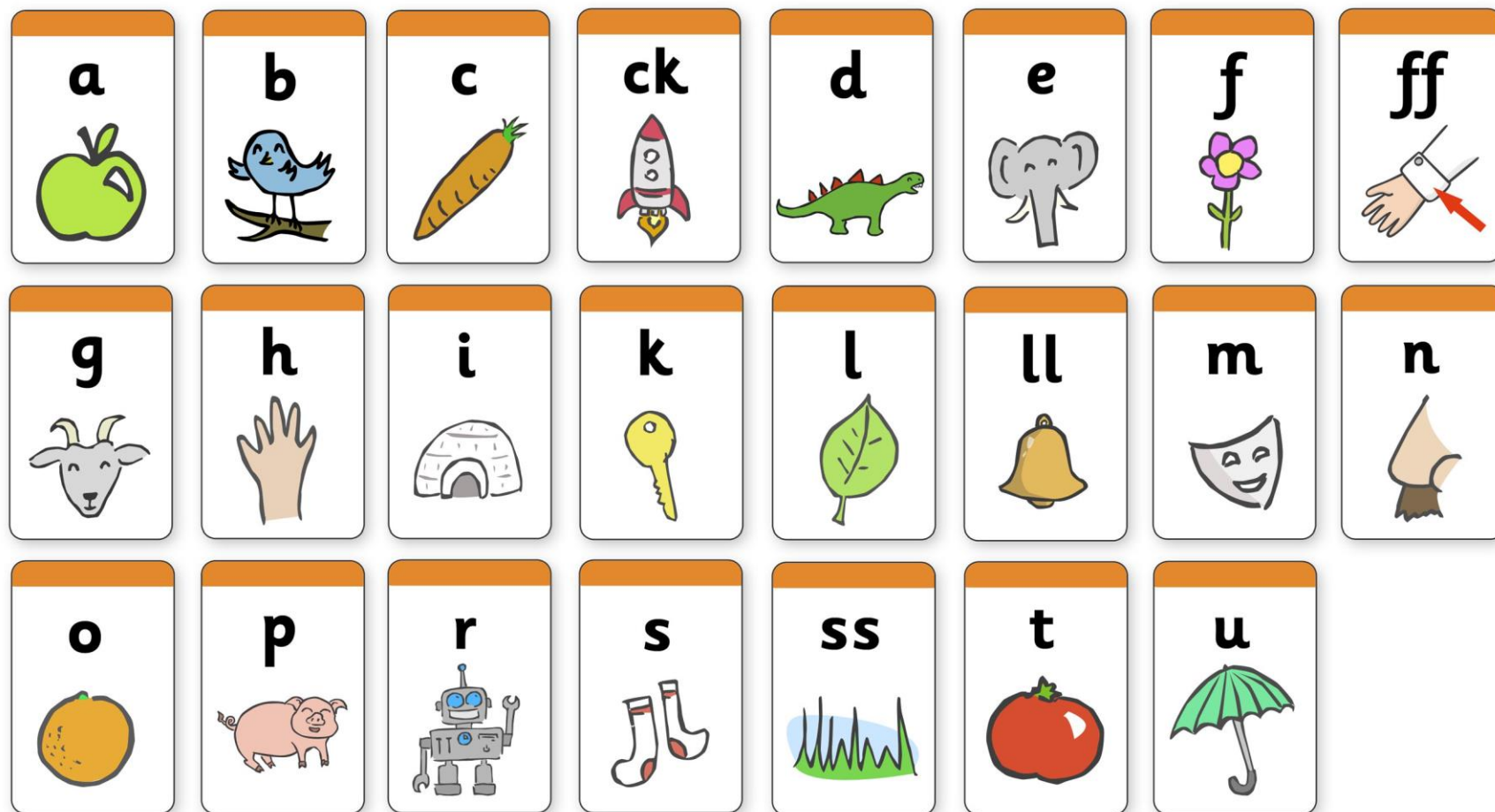
Set 1: s a t p

Set 2: i n m d

Set 3: g o c k

Set 4: ck e u r

Set 5: h b f, ff l, ll ss



My Phase 2 sound mat

Sounds and Actions

When the children are taught a new sound they are introduced to the oral sound, the written sound and an action. For example:

Sound: s

As in the word: sun

Action: Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say
ssssss

Sounds and Names

- It is very important that children learn both the sound and the name of each letter
- This means that they are able in Year 1 to recognise that some letters make more than one sound depending on context
- *This is the letter S (Ess) - it makes the ssssss sound*
- It is also important to avoid adding sounds to letter sounds

p makes a p sound (not puh) etc

f makes a ff sound (not fuh)

l makes an ull sound (not luh)

r makes an urr sound (not ruh)

m makes a mmm sound (not muh)

High Frequency Words

Some of our most common words cannot easily be sounded out as they break rules. We call these Tricky Words and they need to be learned.

- **Decodable** - Words that the children can sound out.

- E.g. **cat, had, mum, back, big**

- **Tricky** - Words that the children cannot sound out. They do not make sense!

- E.g. **to, the, no, go, I, into**



Phase 2 Tricky Words



Sound Talk

Segmenting

We teach the children to break up 'segment' words into sounds to spell words.

cat : c-a-t

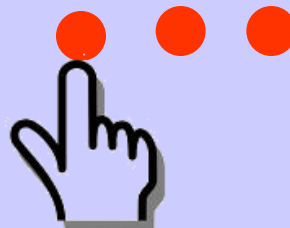


Blending

The children are taught to blend the sounds together to read words.

We encourage the children to run their finger under the word as they read each sound.

c-a-t : cat



Practising at Home

Children have tricky words and sounds sent home to practise.

In Year 1 the tricky words are stuck inside their yellow reading records.

Please practice these regularly so that your child can read them all at sight. This helps them such a lot!

In Year 1 they need to learn to write them all as well.

Phase 3 - Reception

In this phase the children will:

- Learn 25 sounds, most of them comprising 2 letters. We call these **digraphs**.
- Learn the letter names during this phase.
- Learn to read some more tricky words.
- Begin to spell some of these words.

Phase 3 Letter Progression

Set 6: j c w x

Set 7: y z, zz, qu

Digraphs and Trigraphs

ch (chip)

ar (farm)

sh (shop)

or (for)

th (thin, then)

ur (hurt)

ng (ring)

ow (cow)

ai (rain)

oi (coin)

ee (feet)

ear (dear)

igh (night)

air (fair)

oa (boat)

ure (pure)

oo (boot/look)

er (corner)



ai



air



ar



ch



ear



ee



er



igh



j



ng



oa



oi



oo



oo



or



ow



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z



zz



My Phase 3 sound mat

twinkl

www.twinkl.co.uk
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Encouraging writing using phonics

- Use a phoneme frame:

sh	i	p
----	---	---

- Encourage your child to sound out each sound in the word (segment)
- Bath time spongy letters or magnetic letters and sounds to play with - can get sets with joined digraphs/trigraphs

Phase 3 Tricky Words



Phase 4 - summer term of Reception

In this phase:

- No new grapheme/phoneme correspondences introduced
- The children will practice the sounds that they learned in Phase 3
- The children will learn to read words with pairs of adjacent consonants (that is two consonants together eg. **cvcc** words - **tent** and **ccvc** words - **spot**)
- The children will learn to read more tricky words.
- The children will learn to spell tricky words from Phase 3.

Phase 4 Tricky Words



Year One - Phase 5

In this phase:

- The children learn 22 new graphemes (digraphs /pairs of letters) for sounds they already know with a phase 3 grapheme eg they know **ai** as in rain and learn **ay** as in play
- They then learn different pronunciations for the same grapheme - e.g. they have learned **ow** as in cow but will learn that it may be **ow** as in snow
- The children will continue to practice the sounds that they learned in Phase 3 as well
- The children will continue learn to read words with pairs of adjacent consonants (that is two consonants together eg. **cvcc** words - **tent** and **ccvc** words - **spot**)
- The children will learn to read more tricky words.
- The children will learn to spell tricky words from Phase 3, 4 and 5 as well as the spelling rules of the National Curriculum:
 - adding -s or -es to make plurals **boys** / **buses**
 - adding -ing or -ed to a verb : play /**playing** / **played**
 - adding un- at the start of a word to change its meaning : happy / **unhappy**

ay



ou



ie



ea



oy



ir



ue



ue



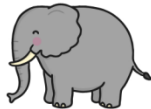
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ew



oe



au



ey



a-e



e-e



i-e



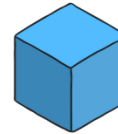
o-e



u-e



u-e



My Phase 5 sound mat

Phase 5 Tricky Words

Phase 5 Tricky Words

oh
could
their
people
Mr
Mrs
looked
called
asked

Reading Books

- Your child will bring home a reading book to share with you.
- Daily practice makes learning much easier for your child and shows them that you value that they are learning to read.
- First books are fully decodable using phonics + tricky words learned at this stage (colour banded - mauve, pink, red, yellow then blue.)
- When your child gains confidence (orange level - Year 1 onwards) they will get books with a higher range of tricky words.

Reading a book with your child

- Talk about the front cover - you read the title and ask your child what you think it may be about.
- Most reading scheme books have information inside the front cover - particularly with the letters and sounds which are focused on in the book. Go over these with your child... 'We are going to find lots of the ch sound in this book - can you point to the ch sound?'
- Review any tricky words found here as well.
- Flip through the book and use any language/words you think your child may find difficult (example: Leek Hotpot - what are leeks?) before you start reading.
- Then start to read. Encourage your child to sound out the word and then blend it together: l - ee - k leek (though they need not do this with words that they can read without doing so!)
- Remind them to check back over a sentence when they have read it - say the whole sentence if they can - so that they get the flow of the sentence and understand what they are reading.
- Stop if your child gets tired. A little and often is far more productive.
- Aim for a balance - you reading a story book to them and enjoying it together is just as important as them reading to you.

Year 1 Phonics Screen test

- A statutory test in mid June
- Children read 40 words using the sounds from Phases 2-5
- 20 of these words are 'alien' words - not real words, which children need to sound out and read e.g. groisk
- Pass Mark has been 32/40 for the past few years but may change
- Children who do not get 32 have to retake in Year 2
- We do our best to make it fun for the children - they get to go and read and have biscuits and stickers!

Glossary

Phonemes

- Sounds.
- In spoken English there are 44 phonemes.
- Phonemes are represented in writing by graphemes.

Graphemes

- A letter or group of letters representing a sound.

Segmenting and blending

- Segmenting - Breaking words down into phonemes to spell
- Blending - Building words from phonemes to read

Digraphs and Trigraphs

- A digraph is a two letter grapheme where two letters represent one sound eg. 'sh' in ship.
- A trigraph is a three letter grapheme where three letters represent one phoneme e.g 'igh' night.

Adjacent Consonants

- These are CVCC or CCVC words

VC, CVC, CCVC, CVCC

- VC - Vowel consonant e.g. on
- CVC - Consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. sat
- CVCC - Consonant, vowel, consonant, consonant e.g. fast
- CCVC - Consonant, consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. grip

Useful Websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk (some free access, some paid)

www.lcfclubs.com/englishzone/phonicszone (subscribe)

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics:

Select **CVC words** for Reception and **Long vowel sounds & Consonant Clusters** for Year 1

www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html : links to lots of sites with games

<http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/literacy/literacy-phonics> : Lots of printable resources for games - some free and some with subscription

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk> - e-books that are colour banded to read online (free with a log in)

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/2010/10/29/hear-the-letter-sounds/> Reception children learn phase 3 sounds with the actions of the Jolly Phonics as well

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJx1NSineE> (link from Redhills website: Home/Learning/English)

Useful Apps

Twinkl phonics app (lite version free, full version £5)