

Phonics



In school, we follow the Letters and Sounds programme. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills which consists of six phases. We supplement this with other games and resources including the Songs for sounds scheme - Collins.

Phase 1

Phase One of 'Letters and Sounds' concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Phase 1 is divided into seven aspects.

Each aspect contains three strands:

- Tuning in to sounds (auditory discrimination)
- Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing)
- Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension)

Phase 2

In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:

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

The children will begin to learn to blend and segment to help begin reading and spelling. This will begin with simple words.

Words using set 1:

at	sat	pat	sat	sap
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Words using set 1 and 2:

(+i)	(+n)	(+m)	(+d)
it	an	am	dad
is	in	man	sad
sit	nip	mat	dim
pit	pan	map	din
pip	pin	Pam	did
sip	tan	Tim	Sid
tip	nap	Sam	and
	tin		dip

Phase 2 continued ...

Words using set 1-3:

(+g)	(+o)	(+c)	(+k)
tag	got	can	kid
gag	on	cot	kit
gig	not	cop	Kim
gap	pot	cap	Ken
nag	top	cat	
sag	dog	cod	
gas	tot		
pig	pop		
dig	mog		

Words using set 1-4:

(+ck)	(+e)	(+u)	(+r)
kick	get	up	rim
sock	pet	mum	rip
sack	ten	run	ram
dock	net	mug	rat
pick	pen	cup	rag
sick	peg	sun	rug
pack	met	mud	rot
tuck	men		

Words using set 1-5:

(+h)	(+b)	(+f and ff)	(+l and ll)	(+ss)
had	but	of	lap	less
him	big	if	let	hiss
his	back	off	leg	mass
hot	bet	fit	lot	mess
hut	bad	fin	lit	boss
hop	bag	fun	bell	fuss
hum	bed	fig	fill	hiss
hit	bud	fog	doll	pass
hat	beg	puff	tell	kiss
has	bug	huff	sell	Tess
hack	bun	cuff	Bill	

Alongside this, children are introduced to tricky words. These are the words that are irregular. This means that phonics cannot be applied to the reading and spelling of these words.

The tricky words introduced in phase 2 are:

to	the	no	go	l
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Phase 3

By the time children reach Phase 3, they will already be able to blend and segment words containing the 19 letters taught in Phase 2. Over the twelve weeks which Phase 3 is expected to last, twenty-five new graphemes are introduced (one at a time).

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

Vowel digraphs: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, ure, er

Sounds	Word example	Sounds	Word example	Sounds	Word example
j	jam	sh	shin	oo (short)	cook
v	vet	th	thick	ow	now
w	win	ng	song	ar	star
x	box	ai	train	air	hair
y	yes	igh	sight	ear	hear
z	zip	oa	boat	er	term
zz	buzz	oi	coil	ur	curl
qu	quick	oo (long)	boot	or	fork
ch	chop	ee	tree	ure	pure

Tricky words:

we	me	be	was	no	go
my	you	they	her	all	are

Phase 4

By Phase 4, children will be able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. They will blend phonemes to read CVC words and segment CVC words for spelling. They will also be able to read two syllable words that are simple. They will be able to read all the tricky words learnt so far and will be able to spell some of them. This phase consolidates all the children have learnt in the previous phases

Tricky words:

said	so	she	he	have	like
some	come	were	there	little	one
they	all	are	do	when	out
what	my	her			

Phase 5

Children will be taught new graphemes and alternative pronunciations for these graphemes, as well as graphemes they already know. They will begin to learn to choose the appropriate grapheme when spelling.

New graphemes for reading:

Sound	Word example	Sound	Word example	Sound	Word example	Sound	Word example
ay	day	oy	boy	wh	when	a_e	make
ou	out	ir	girl	ph	photo	e_e	these
ie	tie	ue	blue	ew	new	i_e	like
ea	eat	aw	saw	oe	toe	o_e	home
				au	Paul	u_e	rule

Tricky words:

oh	their	people	Mr	Mrs	looked
called	asked	water	where	who	again
thought	through	work	mouse	many	laughed
because	different	any	eyes	friends	once
please					

Phase 6

In phase 6, the focus is on learning spelling rules for word endings (these are known as suffixes). The children will learn how words change when you add certain letters. There are 12 different suffixes taught:

-s **-es** **-ing** **-ed**
-er **-est** **-y** **-en**
-ful **-ly** **-ment** **-ness**

Phonics at home

Tips for teaching your child the sounds:

- ◆ It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these first at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, eg. **Paul**.
- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds rather than the alphabet names of the letters. The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names.

Useful webpages

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

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

<http://www.getreadingright.co.uk/phoneme/pronounce-the-phonemes/4>

(useful for pronouncing phonemes)

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

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

<http://www.getreadingright.co.uk/resources/free-letters-and-sounds-resources>

<http://www.ks2phonics.org.uk/Resources.htm>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy>

Useful Terminology

Phoneme: The sounds in a word

Consonant digraphs: contain 2 consonants

Put together they make a new phoneme and are not heard individually
e.g. ch th ll ck sh

Vowel digraphs: contain 2 letters, at least one is a vowel

e.g. ai ee oa ar or oy ow er

Trigraph: contain 3 letters

e.g. ear igh dge

Grapheme: The letter/letters we use to spell a phoneme/ digraph/ trigraph.

High Frequency Words (HFWs)

Common words that are useful for children to learn to read and spell.

Some words are *decodable* which children can blend to read e.g. then.

Some are *tricky words* e.g. said, which are not phonically decodable and are learned by sight.

CVC words - Consonant-Vowel-Consonant

These are simple words which children start with when they begin to blend sounds e.g. sat pin