

Letters and Sounds

Phases 1-3



Phase 1



- ▶ Phase 1 focuses on developing children's speaking and listening skills.
- ▶ There is an emphasis on being aware of and discriminating between the sounds around them.
- ▶ It provides the basis for the phonic work that starts in Phase 2.



Environmental
sounds
Listening to and
recognising sounds
in the environment



Instrumental sounds
Listening to and
recognising
instruments
Loud/quiet

Body Percussion
Clapping and
tapping rhythms
Action rhymes such
as Incy Wincy Spider

Voice Sounds
Playing with sounds
that our voices
make.
What sounds does a
clock make? etc



Alliteration
Matching objects
that begin with the
same sound

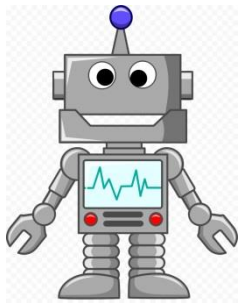


Rhythm and Rhyme
Finding rhyming
pairs in books
Saying silly rhymes
Clapping syllables

Aspect 7-Oral Blending



Children will learn to put sounds together by using their oral blending skills. For example, if an adult says c/u/p, the child can say cup.



Suggested activities

Metal Mike- Can you give Metal Mike the c/a/t?

Make this part of every day actions. Can you put this in the b/i/n?

Picture hunt- can you find the h/a/t?

Aspect 7-Oral Segmenting

Children will learn to break words down into their sounds. For example, if an adult says cup, the child can say c/u/p. We like to use robot talk with robot arms!



Suggested activities

Metal Mike

Segmenting beads

Phase 2 and beyond

- ▶ Each phase has a set of letters that the children will learn to recognise.
- ▶ Letter hunt- can you find p?
- ▶ Matching letters with pictures.
- ▶ Writing letters in sand, shaving foam etc.
- ▶ Look for letters in the environment.
- ▶ Making letters with duplo, soft dough etc.



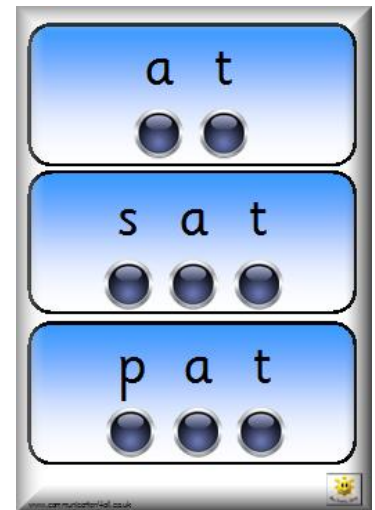
Pronunciation is important!

- ▶ If you are unsure of how to correctly pronounce a phoneme, you can look to the internet for help.
- ▶ Youtube has lots of good videos to help but be very selective.
- ▶ Mr Thorne Does Phonics
- ▶ Jolly Phonics
- ▶ Oxford Owl



Blending

- ▶ Children need to practise blending using the sounds in each phase.
- ▶ Children may benefit from using sound buttons or pointers.
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsqEGq7VSF4>



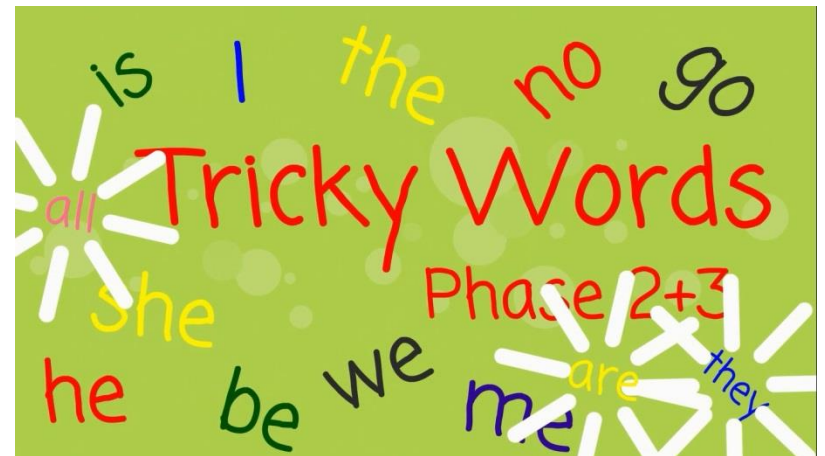
Segmenting and Writing



- ▶ Children use their segmenting skills to write words using the sounds in each phase.
- ▶ Children can begin by making words with magnetic letters/letter cards before moving on to writing words.
- ▶ Children can use a sound mat to help them.
- ▶ Please refer to the cursive letter formation rhymes support materials.

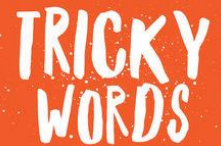
High Frequency Words

- ▶ Children learn to recognise the 100 High Frequency Words (these can be found in your child's Home School Links book).
- ▶ These are very common words that the children need to recognise by sight (without sounding out).



Common Exception Words

- ▶ Children learn to recognise Common Exception Words.
- ▶ These are very common words that the children need to recognise by sight.
- ▶ They cannot be sounded out by applying phonic rules e.g. the, to, no.
- ▶ Please refer to your word mats to find out which common exception words your child needs to learn for their current phase.

The logo for 'TRICKY WORDS' is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the words 'TRICKY' and 'WORDS' stacked vertically in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a solid orange square background.

TRICKY
WORDS

Using Apps



- ▶ Check the pronunciation of phonemes is correct.
- ▶ Stay away from apps that ask children to spell using capital letters.
- ▶ Twinkl phase apps (light version is free but can upgrade to unlock more features)
- ▶ Mr Thorne
- ▶ Alphablocks
- ▶ Geraldine's Phonics Land (99p)



Online Games websites

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

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

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

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

<http://games.e4education.co.uk/groupone/>



Want to learn more?

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

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/home/reading-owl/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>

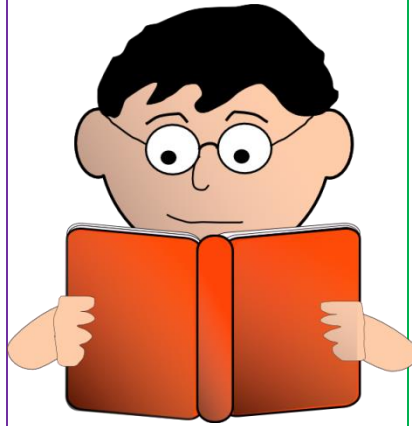
Reading at Home



Phonics and Word Recognition

The ability to recognise words presented in and out of context.

The ability to blend letter sounds (phonemes) together to read words.



Understanding

The ability to understand the meaning of the words and sentences in a text.

The ability to understand the ideas, information and themes in a text.

If a child understands what they hear, they will understand the same information when they read.

Help! My child is stuck!

Use phonics first. What sound does the word begin with? Can you say the sounds in the word? Blend them together.

Read to the end of the sentence. What would make sense?

What is the text about - what might fit here?

Does it sound right?

Look at the picture. Does it help?



Talking About Books

Do you like this book; why?

Who is your favourite character?

Tell me about a character in the book.

How would you feel?

What do you think will happen next?

What would you do?

What have you learned about in your book?

What can you tell me about...?



Reading with your Child

Choose a quiet time and give your child your full attention.

Give support if required using the strategies explained earlier.

Explain the meaning of new words.

Talk about the text using open questions.



Reading to your Child

Introduce your children to different types of books; classic fiction, chapter books, short stories, joke books, poetry, non-fiction.

Read them the book that was your favourite when you were a child.

Read slowly, with expression. Try to use different and funny voices for characters.

Talk about what is happening and what might happen next.



Reading for Pleasure



Make reading visible; have books available in your home.

Share books every day.

Children need to see you reading. Be a reading role model!



Talk about books.

Give children your full attention while they read to you.

Respect their choices.



