



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD WITH PHONICS AT HOME

Aims

What does Phonics mean

How do we teach it in school

What we will send home

Reading

Pronunciation

How else you can help at home

What does phonics mean?

Phonics means the sounds that letters make in words

- There are **26** letters
- There are **44** sounds
- There are over 140 ways to combine the 26 letters to make 44 sounds

We **blend** sounds together to help us **read** (build words up)

We **segment** words into sounds to help us **spell** (break words down)

The Alphabet

We need to learn:

- **Letter sounds** – very important to focus on the sounds, rather than the names when children are beginning to read and write.
- **Letter names** – not such a focus on this right now
- **Letter shapes** A a a
- Letter formation **in print plus**– so important! (Letter Join website)

Letter-join Print Plus

Letter-join Print Plus has simple exit strokes for letters that end 'on the line'.

the dog ran

Letter-join Print

Letter-join Print matches the letter style used in Letter-join to teach printed letters.

the dog ran

Phonics in school

- We follow a programme called 'Sounds Write'
- Groups are fluid and children can change groups throughout the year
- In Reception the children learn the Initial Code, and then spend a term revising two letters and one sound for the final term.
- In Year 1, they move onto the Extended Code.
- There is an app for parents to use at home



1	CVC	a i m s t	<i>Sounds can be represented by spellings with one letter.</i>
2	CVC	n p o	
3	CVC	b c g h	
4	CVC	d e f v	
5	CVC	k l r u	
6	CVC	j w z	
7	CVC	x y ff ll ss zz	<i>Some spellings are written as double consonants.</i>
8	VCC and CVCC <i>2 consonants in final position 3- & 4-sound words</i>	<i>No new code.</i>	<i>The focus here is on teaching the skills to mastery level</i>
9	CCVC <i>2 consonants in initial position 4-sound words</i>		
10	CCCVC, CCVCC and CVCCC <i>3 adjacent consonants 5-sound words</i>		
11	CCVC, CVCC, CCVC & CCCVCC	sh ch th ck wh ng q & u	<i>Some spellings are written with two different letters.</i>

Initial Code in Reception

Sounds-Write key principles

- Language is made up of sounds, and that **letters are used to represent the individual sounds in the language**. That is why the programme is called Sounds-Write.
- **Each sound may be spelled with more than one letter.** /k/ /a/ /t/ each sound is spelled with one letter
- ship - three sounds: /sh/ /i/ /p/ - /sh/ is two letters, but it's one sound
- night – three sounds, /n/ /igh/ /t/- /igh/ is three letters, but it's one sound
- weight – three sounds, /w/ /eigh/ /t/, /eigh/ is four letters, but it's one sound
- You can have one-letter, two-letter, three-letter and four-letter spellings.
- **Sounds may be written in more than one way.**
- So in my accent of English, there are four ways to spell the sound /ae/ : play, rain, great, gate.
- The final concept is that **many spellings represent more than one sound**
- So the spelling < ea > can represent the sounds: seat, head, break.

Pronunciation of sounds

- Careful pronunciation of sounds is very important to ensure we are modelling good language to children.
- Sounds should be pronounced softly and in a clipped, short manner. Not with a 'schwa'

Otherwise: Spelling **Cat**
e.g. **Cuh- a -tuh**

What are we going to send home? - Reception

- Zip wallet with sound flash cards and word list (when new sounds introduced)
- Word list is from 'Sounds Write' programme
- Please keep the zip wallet in their bag, we will tuck the new sounds into their reading records
- Practice the sounds through games
- I spy "a sound which is the first sound in bat"
- Draw pictures to match each sound
- Quick fire round
- Bingo
- Using a timer
- Make words or sentences with the sounds (from the word list)

What are we going to send home? - Year 1 and 2

- Weekly spelling tests – between 5 or 10 words
- Please practice these daily!
- Break the words into sounds (not letters)
- Talk about words with the same sound (freeze has the same /ee/ as three).

Freeze
Three
Keep
She
Became
Creak
Meal
Funny
Angry
Body


F R EE ZE

TH R EE

K EE P

SH E

B E C A M E



Reading at home

- In Reception, story books will be sent home from the very beginning of the year to engage children in reading and talking about books.
 - The children will then be given Dandelion reading books (Sounds Write Scheme) when they are ready to blend and segment CVC words with little support
 - Children will also be learning everyday sight words (The, I, and, was etc.)
 - Re-reading sentences will ensure it has meaning and aids understanding
 - Acting out stories and create new stories using puppets or teddies
 - Talking around the book- predictions, thoughts, feelings, looking at pictures
 - When children are ready, they will then move onto our reading scheme (colour banded books). This continues in Year 1 upwards.
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- CVC means - consonant, vowel and consonant sound. For example, cat, hot, tip, man, hut

How else can you help?

- Phonics packs
- Games and websites- Busy Things, Sounds Write app, Phonics Play, Pinterest, Instagram
- Reading all around you – fiction, non fiction, newspapers, comics, leaflets, maps, posters
- Play- puzzles, magnetic letters, treasure hunts
- Ask children to help you write a shopping list/letter etc. Don't worry about spelling at this stage!
- Talk about sounds they recognise in other words.
- Reading signs/road names
- Encourage independence when completing homework- phonetically plausible is more valuable than perfectly spelt
- Don't worry too much about spelling perfectly, phonetically correct is amazing! Children will often learn to read before they spell.