

Phonics - A Parent's Overview

Phonics can be an area that parents worry about when supporting their children at home. Often this is due to lack of confidence pronouncing sounds or because it wasn't how you were taught to read; the following videos should help:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6OiU2h3sUI&t=28s>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

From last September we made some changes to the way we taught phonics in Reception and Key Stage One. We made a move from using purely the *Read Write Inc.* programme to teach the children to read and spell to following the Government's *Letters and Sounds Documentation*. Details of this publication can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds>

We have combined elements of Read Write Inc to teach the 6 Phases that make up the Letters and Sounds.

Phase 1: Concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonics work which starts in Phase 2.

Phase 2: Children are introduced to sets of letters sounds and will blend to read and segment to spell words containing these sounds.

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

Phase 3: Children continue to learn letter sounds and then move on to consonant and vowel digraphs (two letters making one sound - the children call these types of sounds 'special friends'). During Phase 3 children will also learn letter names through an alphabet song.

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng, nk

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

Phase 4: No new graphemes are introduced. Focus on consolidation of Phase 2 and 3 sounds and reading and spelling words with adjacent consonants e.g. trap, string, milk.

Phase 5: In Phase 5 children learn alternative graphemes for phonemes they already know e.g. 'ai' as in rain, 'ay' as in day and 'a-e' as in make.

ay ou ie ea oy ir ue aw ew oe au ow (snow) ey eer are a-e e-e i-e o-e u-e c g y y

They will also learn alternative pronunciations for graphemes e.g. 'ea' in tea, head and break.

Phase 6: In Phase 6 the main aim is for children to become more fluent readers and more accurate spellers.

You can find free resources to support each learning phase at:

www.letters-and-sounds.com

We continue to use many elements of Read Write Inc in our phonics teaching, the main change being we teach the sounds in a slightly different order and we have created a few extra phrases for sounds not covered by Read Write Inc. These are the Read Write Inc phrases we use when teaching the special friend sounds and there is an image to go with each:

Phase 3:

ch - ch ch ch chool
sh - shhhhhhh!
th - thank you
ng - a thing on a string
nk - I think I stink
ai - snail in the rain
ee - what can you see?
igh - fly high
oa - goat on a boat
oo - poo at the zoo
ar - start the car
or - shut the door
ur - nurse with a purse
ow - brown cow
oi - spoil the boy
ear - hear with your ear
air - that's not fair!
ure - sure it's pure
er - a better letter

Phase 5

ay - may I play?
ou - shout it out
ie - fried pie
ea - cup of tea
oy - toy for a boy
ir - whirl and twirl
ue - blue glue
aw - yawn at dawn
ew - chew the stew
oe - oh my toe!
au - launch the astronaut
ow - blow the snow
ey - wonky donkey
eer - cheerful deer
are - share and care
a-e - make a cake
e-e - even Steven
i-e - nice smile
o-e - phone home
u-e - huge brute
c - ice city
g - giant giraffe
y - fly by
y - hungry baby

During the lockdown period Read Write Inc are providing daily phonics sessions:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7fbLgY2oA_cFCIq9GdxtQ

There are three ability levels, Speed Sounds 1, 2 and 3 (roughly translates to Phase 2, Phase 3 and 5) Although it is important to remember that Read Write Inc follows a different order of teaching the letter sounds so sometimes you may come across a Speed Sound 2 lesson covering a sound our children will not learn until Phase 5.

There are also sites offering free access to Phonics games and resources during this time:

<https://new.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

https://monsterphonics.com/home-learning-in-the-covid-19-lockdown/?fbclid=IwAR2cYJMKLOSTzh0agnRxIZO22H9fVnJnDFzZ6O2kuneFccC_5T4NuUOY808

<https://www.phonics.com/>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

On the Oxford Owls website there is lots of free Read Write Inc information and resources, including video tutorials, online workbooks, phonics linked ebooks and more. It takes just a few minutes to create a free log in. All available here:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

There are also lots of free reading ebooks which are grouped by age available at:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>

You can also access comics to read about each sound here:

<http://phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/comics.html>

You can also watch episodes of Alphablocks on the BBC iPlayer and many are also available on You Tube.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b01cz0p1>

Most important to remember is have fun, short bursts of daily repetition are best and reviewing previously taught sounds is just as important as learning new ones.

