

Foundation
Learning

Phonics and
Reading



Did You Know...?

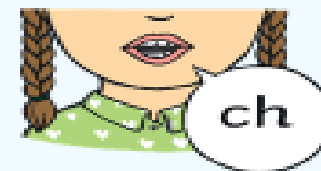
The English language has:

26 letters



44 sounds

over 100 ways to spell those sounds



It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

The Jargon – A Quick Guide

phonics (also known as ‘synthetic phonics’) – The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds

phoneme - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language

grapheme – How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme ‘ay’ is spelt differently in each of the words ‘**way**’, ‘**make**’, ‘**fail**’, ‘**great**’, **sleigh** and ‘**lady**’.

blending – Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. ‘f – r – o – g, frog’

segmenting – Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. ‘frog, f – r – o – g’

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a method for teaching reading and writing.

It develops phonemic awareness - the ability to hear, recognise and use the sounds within words.

Learners are also taught the correspondence between sounds and the graphemes (spelling patterns) that represent them.

Phonics is currently the main way in which children in British primary schools are taught to read in their earliest years.

Children will also be taught other skills, such as whole-word recognition (see 'tricky words'), book skills and a love and enjoyment of reading.

Phase One

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on listening skills.

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

Phase Two

In Phase 2, children begin to learn some letter sounds and to match them to graphemes.

Most of the first sounds are single-letter sounds but there are also several digraphs, where one sound is represented by two letters, e.g. 'ck', 'll', 'ss'.



Children also begin to blend the sounds to make words. By the end of Phase 2, children will be able to read some 'vowel-consonant' (vc) and 'consonant-vowel-consonant' (cvc) words, e.g. up, in, cat, pin.

Five sets of letters are introduced - one set per week.

Children will also learn to read the 'tricky' words **the**, **to**, **go**, **I**, **no**, which cannot be read phonetically.

How do we teach phonics in school?

Children are taught reading and spelling daily throughout the week, and each session will follow a structured format.

The activities used to teach will vary and can be adapted. They are multisensory and appeal to different learning styles. They involve games and individual and group activities as well as teacher-led sessions.

Teachers will assess children's understanding throughout each session and will also assess knowledge of sounds to see whether a child is ready to move on to the next phase.



How to support reading at home

We want reading to be a positive experience for children. There are a number of ways to foster a love for reading.

Help your child with

reading

I Spy

Play 'I Spy' games. Can you find words beginning with...? Can you find a picture of...? How many ... can you see?

Ask Questions

Ask questions about the story as you read it e.g. What is the story about? Why do you think they made that choice? Was it a good choice? Why did that happen? What do you think will happen next? What was your favourite part of the story? Why?

Make it Fun

Enjoy reading together. Give characters funny voices and engage with the pictures. Make a game out of finding words that rhyme or start with the same sound.

Be Seen

Make sure you are seen reading. Keep books and magazines at easy reach.

Get Out

Go to your public library regularly. Find the books you loved as a kid to read together.

Create

Use reading to inspire drawings or new stories.

Go Online

Look online & in app stores for appropriate word & spelling games.

Make Space

Have a special place or a certain time when you read together.

Read everything out loud.

Books, poems, nursery rhymes, newspaper & magazine articles, food labels... anything that is close to hand!

Early reading behaviours

EARLY READING BEHAVIOURS

Step 1. Learn that we read left to right.

Step 2. Develop consistent one-to-one
correspondence.

Step 3. Begin finding known words in books.

Step 4. Start finding unknown words in books.