

Phonics

Fact sheet



What is Phonics and why is it important?

Phonics is a way of teaching reading which focuses on learning phonemes (sounds) associated with particular graphemes (letters). It provides children with the ability to decode words. The skill of decoding is an important element in early reading.

Language we use at school.

Phonemes: The smallest units of sound that are found within a word.

Grapheme: A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, n or 2 letters e.g. sh, ch,

Digraph : Two letters that make one sound when read

Trigraph : Three letters that make one sound

CVC: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant.

Segmenting: breaking up a word into its sounds to spell.

Blending : Putting the sounds together to read a word.

Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded.

Sounds we will cover in Reception.

Phase 2

Unit 1: s a t p Unit 2: i n m d

Unit 3: g o c k Unit 4: ck (as in duck) e u r

Unit 5: h b l f ff (as in puff) ll (as in hill) ss (as in hiss)

Phase 3

Unit 6: l v w x Unit 7: y z zz qu

Unit 8: ch sh th ng Unit 9: ai ee igh oa oo

Unit 10: ar or ur ow oi

Blending to read

Children need to be able to hear the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to say the whole word.

You say c // a // t . Your child can blend the sounds to say cat.

Segmenting to spell

Children need to be able to hear a whole word and say every sound that they hear.

You say cat. Your child can segment the word to say c // a // t

Resources and games to help your child with phonics.

Websites

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

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

Games

Bingo using sounds or tricky words.

Sound talk “can you get me a p // e // n”

Word and picture matching.

Silly shopping list. Child writes cvc words.

What’s in the box? Sound talk or read the word and guess what’s in the box.

Singing nursery rhymes together.

The importance of Reading Books!

Even at this early stage in their education it is very important that your child has regular opportunities to apply their phonics skills in reading and writing activities. The reading books your child receives from school are carefully picked to consolidate learning and give them opportunities to use the skills they have learnt in phonics.

Ideally your child should be reading their school book at least 3 – 4 times per week. We know that this can be tricky with busy lifestyles but even 10 minutes can really help your child make progress in reading and writing.

Reading involves decoding the words using phonic skills and comprehension and understanding of what they have read.

When you have read with your child please date and sign their reading record book and add any comments if necessary.