

Phonics

What strategies can I use at home to support my child with phonics?



The Federation of



Hoxton Garden
Primary School

***How did we
learn to
read?***



Learning to read by 'sight'

The 'look and say' method – an approach that teaches children to read by memorising whole words rather than using sounds.



Teaching word reading and spelling

The national curriculum is designed to make sure that all pupils are able to read and write fluently by the time they leave year 6, so that they can make progress at secondary school.

A vital element of this is the early and successful teaching of phonics.

Understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words underpins successful word reading.

Pupils' knowledge of the English alphabetic code – how letters or groups of letters represent the sounds of the language – supports their reading and spelling.

Being a successful reader

Two main skills:

- Phonics – decoding by blending the sounds in words to read them
- Language comprehension- understand what the word means within the context it appears



What is phonics?

- Children are taught to break down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.
- Children have a 20 minutes phonics lesson each day.
- Phonic strategies taught are then used to read and write in other lessons.



Cracking the English Language code...

Letters are a code, a way of writing down the sounds of speech.

Phonemes are the basis of the code.

English has a complex alphabetic code: 26 alphabet letters represent the 44 or so sounds (phonemes) of English and they do so inconsistently.

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 1 (Nursery)

Phase 1 consists of 7 aspects

- A1 – Environmental sounds
- A2 – Instrumental sounds
- A3 – Body Percussion
- A4 – Rhythm and rhyme
- A5 – Alliteration
- A6 – Voice sounds
- A7 – Oral blending and segmenting.

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 2 (Reception)

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

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 3 (Reception / Year 1)

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

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

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 4 (Reception / Year 1)

This phase consolidates everything the children have learnt in the previous phases.

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 5 (Year 1 / Year 2)

Children will be taught new graphemes and alternative pronunciations for these graphemes.

Vowel digraphs:

wh, ph, ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, ew, oe, au

Split digraphs:

a_e, e_e, i_e, o_e, u_e

6 Phonics Phases

Phase 6 (Year 2)

The focus is on learning spelling rules for suffixes.

-s	-es	-ing	-ed
-er	-est	-y	-en
-ful	-ly	-ment	-ness

Segmenting

'Chopping Up' the word to s p e ll it out.

cat

c a t
● ● ●



Blending

Recognising the letter sounds in a written word and blending them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word.

c a t
● ● ●

cat

Not cuh-a-tuh



Sound buttons

s

sh

shop

Segmenting Activity

WORD	PHONEMES					
shelf						
dress						
think						
string						
sprint						
flick						

WORD	PHONEMES					
shelf	sh	e	l	f		
dress	d	r	e	ss		
think	th	i	nk			
string	s	t	r	i	ng	
sprint	s	p	r	i	n	t
flick	f	l	i	ck		

Phonics Screening Check

- Every Year 1 child in the country will take the phonic screening check.
- The phonics screening check is a quick check of your child's phonic knowledge.
- This check will ensure that teachers have a clear understanding of what the children need to learn in year 2.



Home Reading

Children take home a 'phonics' reader linked to the phase of phonics that they are learning and a banded 'pleasure' reader which they may need support from an adult at home to read.



Helping your child with decoding (word reading) unfamiliar words

- Say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, i.e. /b/ in **b**at, or letter group, i.e. /igh/ in **igh**, as you say the sound, then run your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Try to ensure that you pronounce the sound accurately.
- Talk about the meaning if your child does not understand the word they have read.
- Always be positive and give lots of praise and encouragement.

Helping your child at home at the early reading stage

There are many different activities you can do with your child to help them develop their reading skills.

- Listening walks, where you take time to stop and pay attention to the sounds you can hear;
- Clapping a rhythm for your child to repeat;
- Playing 'What's That Sound?', using household objects to make a noise (e.g. shaking a peppermill, deflating a balloon) and getting your child to guess what it is;
- Don't forget to practise saying or singing the alphabet with your child. This is a really important skill that they need for later learning!

Resources and links



- Mini Writers Club
- Five Minute Mum



- Letters and Sounds



- The Book Trust book finder
- Oxford Owl



Useful links

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>
- Teach Your Monster to Read (Website is free. Paid App) - www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure>

link to the phonics pronunciation video:

- <https://www.letterland.com/letter-sounds>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BELIZKpi1Zs>