

# Phonics and Reading

## Aims for today:

- \*Understand what phonics is and how we can use phonics to support our children's reading.

- \*Share tips on engaging children in reading.



- \*Understand how we can continue to support our children as they become more fluent readers.

# Phonics

In understanding how the children have been taught you will be hopefully be able to help them with using their phonics when reading at home.

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read. Phonics is taught in every school as it is the most effective way of teaching children to read.

Phonics works by breaking words down into its individual sounds. There are 44 different sounds in the English language. Learning to read with phonics is therefore a bit like learning a code, after learning just a few sounds, you will be able to use this code to read 100's of words. The more sounds you know, the more words you will be able to work out how to read.

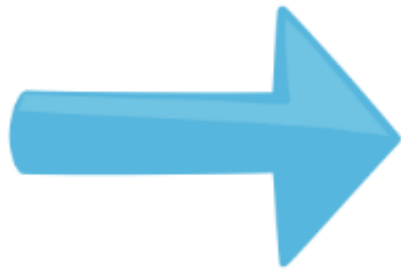


# What is phonics?

Let's start at the beginning...

Each one of the 26 letters in the alphabet has its own 'sound'. This is very different to how a letter is 'said' in the alphabet. For example:

'a' in 'arrow'



arrow

'b' in 'bat'.



bat

Of course phonics is not that simple! There are more than 26 sounds in English language, in fact there are 44 sounds in total. Some of these sounds are made up of 2 or 3 letters. 2 letter sounds are called digraphs and three letter sounds are called trigraphs.

digraph



scout

trigraph



ears

It gets a bit more complicated than that too!

For example the 'n' sound, like in 'nail' is also spelt 'kn' like in 'knot' or 'gn' like in 'gnome'.



nail



knot



gnome

The sound that children struggle to spot the most when breaking down words into its individual sounds is the 'split digraph'. Like a normal digraph, this is when two letters work together to make one sound, however with a split digraph, they are separated and have a letter in the middle.

Fortunately 'split digraphs' always end with an 'e' which does make them a little easier to spot!

Examples of split digraphs include:



bone



cake

Not all words are phonetically decode-able however, a select few words you need to learn through the 'sight words' method of learning to read. We call these 'tricky words'.

When children are learning give them time.

Remind them to sound out the word.

You could place your finger under the letters to help them sound them out as you point to them.

Place your finger under the letters that together make one sound, or move your finger along to show a word that has a split digraph.

If they need help sounding out make sure you are saying the sound the letter makes and the pure sound.

e.g. The diagram shows three words: 'vanish', 'cake', and 'leaf'. Each letter has a small blue dot underneath it. A blue horizontal line is drawn under the letters 'a', 'n', and 'i' in 'vanish'. In 'cake', a blue bracket is drawn under the letters 'a' and 'k'. In 'leaf', a blue horizontal line is drawn under the letters 'e' and 'a'.

Be patient here!

It is not uncommon for children to correctly read a word and then 30 seconds later be unable to read it.

Go through the process from the beginning, sound it out, blend it together.

In time they will recognise high frequency words (tricky words) and will not need to go through that process any more.

Praise!

We teach phonics lessons every day for at least 25 minutes.

In school we teach children to read, but regular practise is needed to build confidence, fluency and enjoyment. We cannot facilitate this in school so need your support.



The man went down to the shop

The man and his wife walked down to  
the shops.



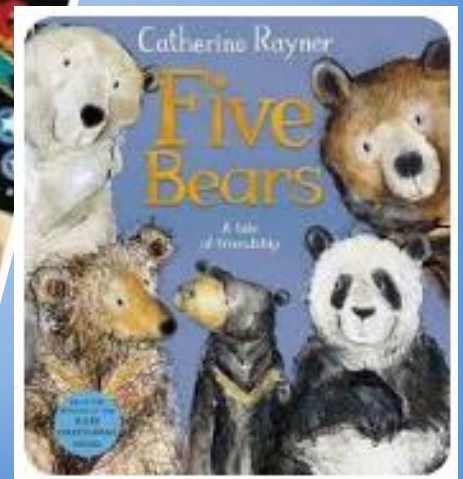
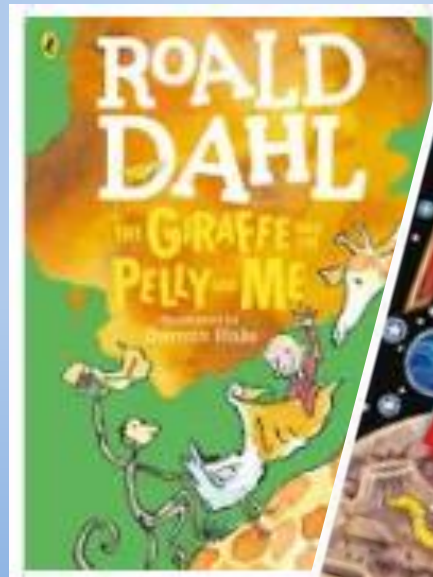
# Reading

To begin with, the books children are sent home tend to be very simple. The focus is on practising the phonics your child is learning so these early phonic reading books don't always tell much of a story! Even in these books, there is usually a simple story or some information, which may be partly conveyed by the pictures. Children are encouraged to talk about what they read and share their ideas about it.



Alongside phonic reading books, your child will also be enjoying a range of longer and more complex stories and information books, which the teacher will share with the class. These richer and more complex books give your child lots of opportunities to think about the story or information and share their ideas with other people.

You sharing books with your child at home is just as valuable!



When your child has developed good fluency they can focus solely on understanding the text and showing this understanding through prosody. This is varying the intonation, pace and volume of your voice to show meaning and for effect.

The giant suddenly stopped. ‘How dare you trespass in my garden’ he thundered.



Ask child to read a short section. Discuss what has been read to make sure they understand it. Ask them how they think the character might be feeling? So how might their voice sound? Demonstrate if necessary.

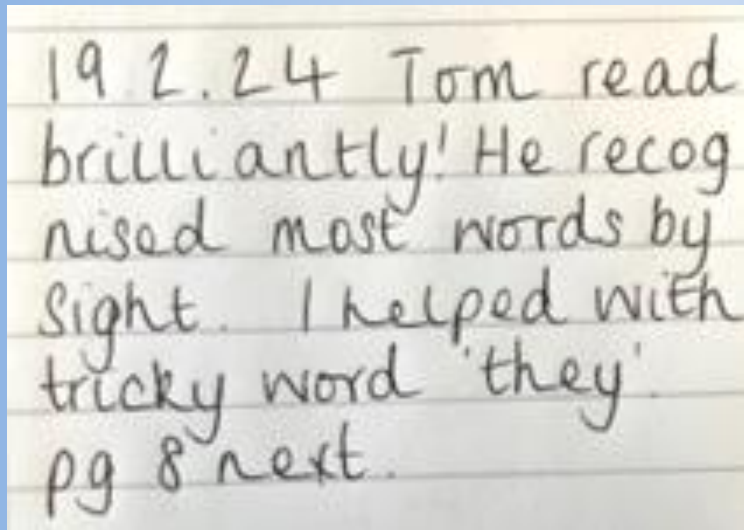
Praise!



The gentleman ambled along slowly taking his time as went to the shop.

## How to use the Reading Record Book:

After hearing your child read, please write in their Reading record. Include the date, which page they need to read next and how they read.



19.2.24 Tom read brilliantly! He recognised most words by sight. I helped with tricky word 'they' pg 8 next.



# Problems with hearing children read:

## \*Time

Schedule a time in the day so it becomes part of a routine.

Have a set expectation: 5 mins (use a timer) or 5 pages. This could be built up over time.

## \*Reluctant readers

Praise praise praise!

Now and next.

Rewards

## \*Confidence in knowing how to support

# EARLY CHILDHOOD READING STATISTICS

Reading aloud to your child is extremely beneficial to your kiddo for a variety of reasons. Learn some statistics about children and reading and start a reading routine today!

The more children are read to or read by themselves for fun at home on their own time, the higher their reading scores are in general.



Children's books contain 50% more words that they are unlikely to encounter through conversation, TV, and radio.

Being introduced to books and being read to before beginning school is the single most important factor that influences a child's early educational success.



Children who have more access to books and other print materials show more enjoyment in reading, books, and academics.

Children who receive the one-on-one special attention from being read to by a parent form positive associations with books and reading.



At Yellow Brick Road, we know how important reading is to a child's development. Read to your child regularly and be sure to enroll them at our early childhood development center!

Please hear you child read three times a week as a minimum, but a little every day if possible!

Make reading enjoyable! Reading to your child and having them see you as readers is just as important as hearing them read.



Links:

Instagram



Phonicsplay

Readingroots

Toddlerscanread

Edzocate

# Questions?

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