

Helping Your Child Read at Home

- an activity guide to support Reading and Phonics



Why is reading so important?

Because once you learn to read, you read to learn!

Reading is a lifelong skill you never stop working on, and that's why it's a core subject throughout your child's education.

Reading outside of school

Sharing books - Inspire your children to love books!

- Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc).
- You don't have to read all of the words each time.
- Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and have fun!

Give everything a name - Build your child's vocabulary in both English and their home language by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

General tips to support reading

Once is never enough! - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading scheme book. Re-reading helps children read more quickly and accurately.

Dig deeper into the story - Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Say something like, "Why do you think he did that?" (you could use the 'Reading comprehension for children at home' questions for some varied ideas).

Take control of the television - It's difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games. Encourage reading as a distraction free activity.

I read to you, you read to me - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Kids enjoy this special time with their parents.

One more time with feeling - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often children are so busy figuring out a word they lose the meaning of what they've just read.

Games to play with your Year 1 child

Oral Blending games

Robotic talking - Words are made up from sounds and children need to be able to hear these sounds individually. Sometimes when you are playing you can say words as if you were a robot (saying the sounds separately) and see if your child can work out what you are saying. Stick to short simple words that only have a few sounds in them. Make sure you are saying the letter sounds (p-i-g) not the letter names (pee-eye-gee).

e.g.

Pass that p-i-g to me.

Sit d-ow-n.

Point to your t-ee-th.

Hop like a f-r-o-g.

As your child becomes familiar with this robot talking, see if they can say words in robot talk themselves?

I spy - Say the rhyme 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with _____'. Allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess what you have chosen, for example, 'something beginning with t' could be a tree, toy, tent or train.

Point out print everywhere - Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find familiar words on each outing such as 'McDonald's'; 'Coke' .

Playing with words - Encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

Shopping list - ask your child to write your shopping list, encourage them to sound out all the phonemes - " mmmm-i-llll-k "

Further ideas...

Create a book together - Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.

Make up stories on the go - Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.

Pass the story - Say a phrase each and make a sentence/story. 'Once upon a time there was a!! troll named Peter who had a friend called.....!'

Phonics

In school, we follow the Letters and Sounds programme. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills which consists of six phases.

Segmenting and blending

Segmenting consists of breaking words down into phonemes to spell. Blending consists of building words from phonemes to read. Both skills are important.

Phase 3

By the time children reach Phase 3, they will already be able to blend and segment words containing the 19 letters taught in Phase 2. Over the twelve weeks which Phase 3 is expected to last, twenty-five new graphemes are introduced (one at a time).

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

Sounds	Word example	Sounds	Word example	Sounds	Word example
j	jam	sh	shin	oo (short)	cook
v	vet	th	thick	ow	now
w	win	ng	song	ar	star
x	box	ai	train	air	hair
y	yes	igh	sight	ear	hear
z	zip	oa	boat	er	term
zz	buzz	oi	coil	ur	curl
qu	quick	oo (long)	boot	or	fork
ch	chop	ee	tree	ure	pure

Tricky words:

we	me	be	was	no	go
my	you	they	her	all	are

Phase 4

By Phase 4, children will be able to represent each of the 42 phonemes with a grapheme. They will blend phonemes to read CVC words and segment CVC words for spelling. They will also be able to read two syllable words that are simple. They will be able to read all the tricky words learnt so far and will be able to spell some of them. This phase consolidates all the children have learnt in the previous phases

Tricky words:

said	so	she	he	have	like
some	come	were	there	little	one
they	all	are	do	when	out
what	my	her			

Phase 5

Children will be taught new graphemes and alternative pronunciations for these graphemes, as well as graphemes they already know. They will begin to learn to choose the appropriate grapheme when spelling.

New graphemes for reading:

Sound	Word example						
ay	day	oy	boy	wh	when	a_e	make
ou	out	ir	girl	ph	photo	e_e	these
ie	tie	ue	blue	ew	new	i_e	like
ea	eat	aw	saw	oe	toe	o_e	home
				au	Paul	u_e	rule

Tricky words:

oh	their	people	Mr	Mrs	looked
called	asked	water	where	who	again
thought	through	work	mouse	many	laughed
because	different	any	eyes	friends	once
please					

Phonics at home

Tips for teaching your child the sounds:

- ◆ It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these first at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, e.g. **Paul**.

- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds: **a buh cuh duh e ...** rather than the alphabet names of the letters: **ay bee see dee ee** . The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names. **eg. cat, would sound like: see ay tee**
- ◆ When saying the sounds of **b, d, g, j** and **w** you will notice the 'uh' sound which follows each, for example buh, duh... You cannot say the sound without it, however, try to emphasise the main letter sound.

Recommended webpages

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>
<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy>
<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>
<http://readingeggs.co.uk/>
<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Recommended Books for Year 1

The Cat in the Hat	Dr Seuss
The Tiger Who Came to Tea	Judith Kerr
Hairy Maclary	Lynley Dodd
The Large Family Collection	Jill Murphy
Charlie and Lola	Lauren Child
The Smartest Giant in Town	Julia Donaldson
The Gruffalo's Child	Julia Donaldson
The Gigantic Turnip	Aleksei Tolstoy
The Whisperer	Nick Butterworth
Mrs Armitage on Wheels	Quentin Blake
The Trouble with Jack	Shirley Hughes
My Friend Bear	Jez Alborough
Avocado Baby	John Burningham
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond
Funnybones	Allan Ahlberg
The Hodgeheg	Dick King-Smith
The Jolly Postman	Allan Ahlberg
Mister Magnolia	Quentin Blake
Katie Morag Series	Mairi Hedderwick
Frog and Toad are Friends	Arnold Lobel
The Princess and the Pea	Minnie Grey
Amazing Grace	Mary Hoffman
Don't Forget the Bacon	Pat Hutchins
Emperor of Absurdia	Chris Riddell
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	Jon Scieszka

Collins Primary Dictionary	
Children's First Encyclopaedia	
Children's Atlas	
Topic Books, e.g. Old Toys, Homes in the Past	
Traditional Nursery Rhymes	
Traditional Fairy Stories	

Recommended Apps

Hunches In Bunches (£2.99 - £3.34)

This is a digital version of a more-traditional Dr. Seuss book: the tale of a young boy getting distracted by all manner of surreal creatures ("a Sour Hunch, a Very Odd Hunch, the Homework Hunch, a Four-Way Hunch, the Nowhere Hunch..." as he tries to figure out how to spend his day.

Mibblio (Free + IAP)

A number of children's apps are doing fun things with music in 2013, with several represented here. Mibblio is a "musically interactive storybook app" with a selection of stories, each with their own song.

Question Builder

Appropriate for children who are already reading, this app helps a child develop critical thinking skills and comprehension. It also encourages abstract thinking and inferring, a difficult skill to reinforce at such a young age.

Read Me Stories

iDiary for Kids Lite

Sight Words List

Sight Words

Phonics Genius

Reading Eggs Sight Words (free version)

Reading Comprehension for Children at Home

Can your child find evidence directly from the story to answer your questions?

The answer is right there in the text.

- What did..... do?
- Who did..... do it to?
- How many..... were/are there?
- Who are.....?
- Can you tell me what this word/bit means?
- What kind of is that?

Can your child think and search for the answer?

The answers are found in different parts of the story and they might have to apply prior knowledge or personal experience to an answer.

- How do you make/do.....?
- What happened when..... did.....?
- What happened to.....?
- What do you think might happen next OR what happened before?
- How many times.....?
- What examples can you find?
- Where did this happen?
- Where was..... when this was happening?

Can your child answer questions without referring to the story?

The answer is not in the story, it is your child's opinion and thoughts.

- Have you ever...?
- If you could...?
- If you were going to...?
- In your opinion...?
- Do you agree with.....? Why?
- Do you know anyone who.....?
- How do you feel about.....?

National Phonics Screening

In June, all children take part in a national phonics screening test. The screen involves reading words made up of all of the different sounds learned up to and including Phase 5.

Each child will be tested one at a time by their class teacher. During the screen, children will be asked to read through a set of word cards. Some of the words will be nonsense “alien” words designed to test the children’s ability to segment a word into its basic sounds and blend them back together. Others will be real words designed to test the children’s ability to select the right sounds from possible pronunciations (e.g. the ‘ow’ in ‘blow’ should not be pronounced as the ‘ow’ in ‘cow’). The nonsense cards all have a small alien figure on them. This tells the children that it’s not a real word and that they should just use the phonics they know to segment and blend the best they can.

In order to avoid anxiety and nerves, the children will not be told that they are taking part in a national test. The screen will be treated as just another reading exercise. There are no consequences to the child if they do not pass the screen and those that do not pass will have another opportunity to be screened in year 2.

Trash or Treasure!

One of the children's favourites, this game can be played on the interactive whiteboard through [Phonicsplay.com](https://www.phonicsplay.com) or using the paper word coins that have been put out.

Children pick a word, segment and blend it and then decide if it is real or not. Real words are 'treasure' and go into the treasure chest, made-up words are 'trash' and go in the bin.

Words from across all 5 phases have been included. Have a go!

Sound Buttons

Sound buttons are dots and lines that can be written underneath each individual sound to make blending and segmenting easier. The children can 'press' each sound button to segment and then blend the sounds together to make the word.

If the sound is made up of a single letter, a dot button is placed underneath...

b a t

. . .

If the sound is made up of more than one letter, a line button is placed underneath...

Sh o p

— . .

Have a go with some of the words on the table! Words from across all 5 phases have been included.