



# Phonics Meeting for Parents

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# Why teach phonics?

- Phonics helps children to develop good reading and spelling skills.
- The ability to read and write is a vital skill for all children, paving the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience.
- We use a synthetic phonics approach called '**Letters and Sounds**'.





# What is synthetic phonics?

- **Synthetic Phonics** is a way of teaching reading.
- Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent – so, they are taught that the letter s sounds like s when we say it.
- Children can then start to read words by blending the sounds together to make a word.

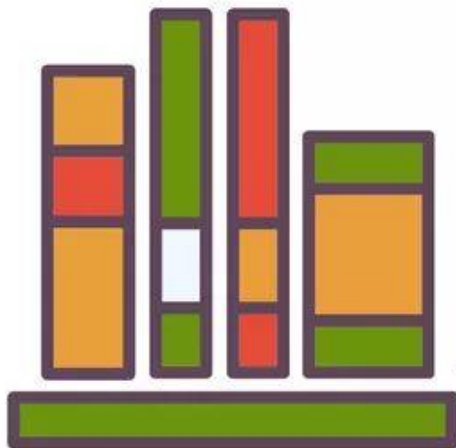


# Why synthetic phonics?

*“Synthetic phonics offers the vast majority of young children the best and most direct route to becoming skilled readers and writers”*

*Sir Jim Rose, Rose Review of Reading 2006*

**If you read to a child  
15 minutes a day,  
by age 5 that will add up  
to 27,375 minutes or  
456 hours or  
19 days!**



**GROWING  
BOOK BY BOOK**



# Some Definitions

## A Phoneme

This is the smallest unit of sound in a word.



How many phonemes can you hear in

**cat?**



# Some Definitions

## A Grapheme

This is a letter or group of letter that represents a sound



How many graphemes can you see in

**cat?**



- A phoneme you hear



- A grapheme you see



**A word doesn't always have the same number of letters and phonemes!**





# Six Phases

- Phase 1 - nursery (pre school)
- Phase 2 and Phase 3 – throughout reception
- Phase 4 and 5 is taught in year 1
- Phase 6 year 2





# Phase 1

- Environmental sounds (sirens, cars, birds etc.)
- Instrumental sounds (musical instruments)
- Body percussion (clapping, tapping, stamping )
- Rhythm and Rhyme (reading rhyming books, singing nursery rhymes)
- Alliteration (bouncy ball, licking lollies )
- Voice sounds (wheeee, boing boing)
- Oral blending and segmenting



## Phase 2

- Sounds are introduced in sets
  - ❖ 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

# Phase 3

- **Phase 3** introduces twenty-five new graphemes one at a time.
- Letters and sounds typically follows this order:
- Set 6: j, v, w, x
- Set 7: y, z, zz, qu
- Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng
- Vowel digraphs and trigraphs: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.



# Phase 4

- When children start **Phase Four** of the Letters and Sounds **phonics** programme, they will know a grapheme for each of the 42 phonemes.
- They will be able to blend phonemes to read CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words and segment in order to spell them.
- Children also learn polysyllabic words.



# Phase 5

- In **Phase 5 Phonics**, children learn a new range of graphemes and phonemes for reading.
- They are taught, for example, that the phoneme 'a' can be represented by the graphemes 'ay' or 'a-e.'
- Alternative pronunciations for graphemes are also introduced too, for example ee and ey, ai and ay



# Phase 6

- In **Phase 6 Phonics** the main aim for children is to develop their fluency as a reader and increase their accuracy when spelling.
- They will have already learnt the most often used grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) in the English language.
- Children will be able to sight-read a large number of words.



# Phonics Screen Check

- The **Phonics Test** is a compulsory **test** for pupils in year 1 (usually in early June).
- The **Phonics Screening Test** seeks to **test** whether children have learned to decode words using **phonics** to the required level.
- Children are expected to sound out and blend graphemes to read simple words.
- If the children have not reached the required standard in year 1, they will re take the check in year 2, where further support is given.

















































# How to say the sounds

- Saying the sounds correctly with your child is extremely important.
- The way we say the sound may well be different from when you were at school.
- We say the shortest form of the sounds.
- You tube video for correct pronunciation.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>



# The 44 phonemes

/b/	/d/	/f/	/g/	/h/	/j/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ng/
										
/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/v/	/w/	/y/	/z/	/th/	/th/	/ch/
										
/sh/	/zh/	/a/	/e/	/i/	/o/	/u/	/ae/	/ee/	/ie/	/oe/
										
/ue/	/oo/	/ar/	/ur/	/au/	/er/	/ow/	/oi/	/air/	/ear/	/ure/
										



# Segmenting

- Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example:

c-u-p



# Blending

- Merging or 'blending' the sounds in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word

cup

Speedy recognition of the sound for each letter is really important, so your child can blend them to read words easily.



# Segmenting Activity

- Using 'sound buttons' can you say how many phonemes are in each word.
- cat
- sun
- dog
- back

Challenge: How many graphemes?



# Tricky Words

- Some everyday words in English have tricky spellings and can't be read by blending.
- These are sometimes called high frequency tricky words .
- We tell the children to look for any part of the word they know and then try to work out the rest of the word.
- Not all of the word is tricky!



# How can I help at home?

- Reading lots of books with your child.
- Read stories to your child.
- Continue to read rhyming books and sing nursery rhymes.
- Play rhyming games e.g. How many words can you find that rhyme with jam?
- Play 'I spy'...This will help them to hear the initial sound in words.
- Play phonics games on [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)
- Play phonics games on [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

