

Phase 2 Phonics

A Guide for Parents

Most children will progress to Phase 2 of the Letters and Sounds phonics programme during, at the end of preschool or the start of Reception. Phase 2 introduces nineteen letters of the alphabet. The letters are learnt in an order which allows children to begin reading and writing three-letter words very quickly.

In the original Letters and Sounds programme, letters are taught in this order:

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

Within the first two weeks of learning phonics, your child may be able to read, write and spell: a, as, at, it, is, an, in, tap, pat, sat, sap, sit, pit, tip, sip, nip, pan, pin and tin.

Books that support early readers are widely available and your child will be given a reading book from school weekly. Your local library will also have sets of early reader books that you can borrow.

Your child may also learn language specific to phonics learning:

Phoneme - a single sound that can be made by saying one or more letters e.g. saying c or ck, out loud.

Grapheme - written letters or group of letters which represent a single sound e.g. reading and writing c or ck.

Digraph - two letters which together make one sound e.g. ck.

At school, your child will be taught phonics through specific phonics sessions where the teacher introduces the sound (phoneme) and letter (grapheme) and often an action or illustration to help children remember it. Activities will then be set up around the room to practice saying, reading, using and writing the letter and sound.

At home, you could use magnetic or foam letters to support spelling and reading. Start with three-letter words that follow a consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) pattern. By moving the position of the letters, children can see how new words can be made without the difficulty of writing the letters down. Once they have created their three-letter words with magnetic or foam letters, your child may like to write them down.

Ask your child which letter, sound, action or picture they have learnt in phonics today!

Some words cannot be sounded out. These are **tricky words**. The first tricky words your child will learn are l, no, go, the, to and into.

Most importantly, keep reading with your child every day. Let them read to you, but also make sure you are reading more complex books to them and they are continuing to hear stories and other texts read aloud.

Whilst many schools follow the Letters and Sounds programme, some follow other schemes, so it is worth checking with your child's teacher if you are unsure how best to support them.