

Phonics by phase

Parent information

The following sounds are the sounds that your child will be taught in school in reception. They will continue to practise reading using their phonics throughout years 1 and 2.

All children learn at different paces, so your child may be able to learn a few sounds at once, or maybe they'll need to learn one at a time.

Some key words your child may speak of:

Grapheme - individual letters

Phoneme - sounds the letters make

Digraph - 2 letters making one sound eg. "oa" in coat.

Trigraph - 3 letters making one sound eg. "igh" in night

How to teach

Children learn in different ways. Here are my suggestions as a primary school teacher/tutor who has taught phonics to children of all ages, including those new to English. How quickly you move from one step to the next will depend on your child's progress. You make that call!

In school, your child will be taught one sound at a time, however, I have worked with children who have been able to learn four sounds per lesson. Whatever is manageable for your child is what you should do!

Step 1: Introduce the sound. You say the sound and ask your child to repeat the sound after you.

Step 2: Introduce objects/words that contain the sound.

Step 3: Say the sound and ask your child to pick out the sound from multiple options.

Step 4: Ask your child to say the sound when you show it to them.

Step 5: Get your child to say and write the sound (dependent on age/writing ability)

Step 6: Get your child to write words that include the sound (this should only start once they have learnt s, a, t, p, i, n)

Phase 2 sounds

s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, e, u, r, h, b, f, l

Sounds that appear in the middle/at the end of a word:

ck - "k" sound - eg. rock^et, brick^e, duck^e, pick^e

ll - "l" sound - eg. bell^e, chill^e, jelly^e, fill^e, doll^e

ss - "s" sound - eg. kiss^e, fuss^e, mess^e, less^e

ff - "f" sound - eg. scruffy^e, puff^e, off^e

Phase 3 sounds

j, v, w, x, y, z

zz - eg. buzz

qu - eg. quick

ch - eg. chop

sh - eg. ship

th - eg. thin

ure - eg. pure

ng - eg. thing

ai - eg. rain

ee - eg. seed

or - eg. fork

igh - eg. night

oa - eg. coat

oo - eg. book

oo - eg. mood

ar - eg. cart

er - eg. corner

ur - eg. burn

ow - eg. snow/cow

oi - eg. coin

air - eg. stairs

Phase 5 sounds

ay - eg. play

oy - eg. toy

wh - eg. when

aw - eg. claw

a_e - eg. make

ir - eg. girl

au - eg. fault

oe - eg. toe

ue - eg. blue

e_e - eg.

compete

i_e - eg. ride

o_e - eg. home

u_e - eg. Luke

ou - eg. shout

ie - eg. tied

ea - eg. read

ew - eg. blew

ph - eg. phone

ey - eg. keys