

Kings Road
Reception Parents
Phonics and reading Workshop

February 2025



Aims

- To give you a better insight into how children acquire the ability to read in Reception.
- To explain a bit about what we do in school.
- To link this to what you can do at home.

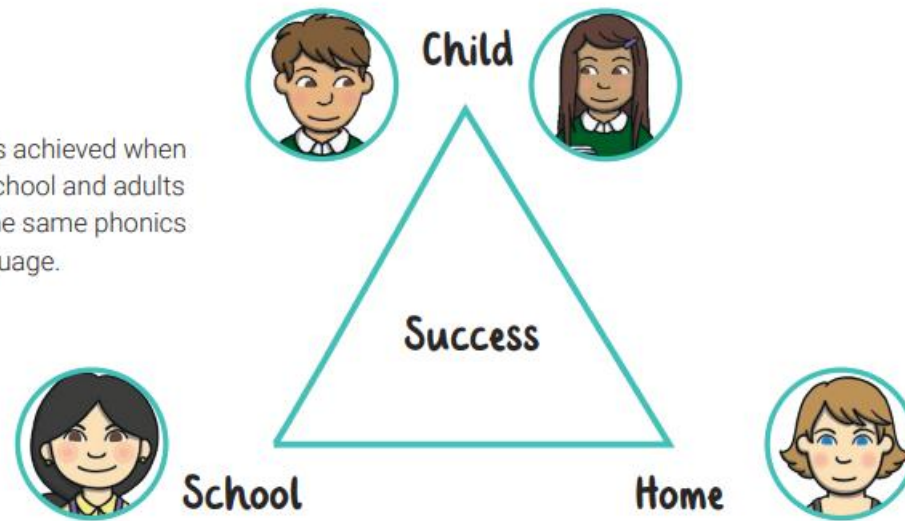


A brief introduction to taught phonics

First and foremost... this is school's job! Do not panic, you do not need to do this.

BUT, understanding how phonics is taught will help you support your child with their reading at home.

Maximum learning is achieved when the child, adults in school and adults at home are using the same phonics techniques and language.



What is phonics?

- The sound that letters make either on their own or letters together.
- Sounds not names, names are useful but should not be first.
- It is not taught alphabetically! There are 'tricky words'.
- There is a Statutory Phonics Test in the Summer of Year 1
- We follow Twinkl Phonics scheme.



What is phonics?

- One of the most important early phonics skills is the ability to blend.
- Children need to be able to do this even before they recognise any letters.
- Recognising letters but not being able to blend prevents your child from being able to read.

s u n → sun

t e n t → tent

l igh t → light



Taught Session 2

Notice how the children:

- Tune in listening skills to blend 3 sounds together to hear the word it makes
- Do not need to see the objects to 'guess' which word it is
- Still does not need to see letters to practise this important skill



Games to play at home

What you can do at home if your child is working at this level:

- I spy something that sounds like.... c a t ?
- Simon Says – can and get your... h a t? c oa t? b a g?
- When sharing a book :
- What sound can you hear at the start of? If I sound out the letters what word can you hear?



Taught Session 3

Notice how the children:

- Continue to revisit the oral skills learnt previously
- Recognise some letters of the alphabet and can say their sound
- Demonstrate that they can segment and blend sounds together to hear a word
- Read words independently (decoding)



Reading at home

What can you do at home if your child is working at this level?:

- Encourage them to sound out if they recognise the letters
- Support them to blend by repeating the sounds slightly quicker if needed.
- Read the sentence fluently for them after they have sounded out.
- Demonstration of reading in school



Reading/sharing a book

- Some basics first – try not to practise reading when your child is tired or if you are tired, anxious etc.
- Let your child hold the book and turn the pages.
- Note lots of detail on the front cover e.g title author illustrator and the back eg blurb, price etc
- If there are sounds/tricky words at the start of the book, practise them with your child first.
- Check your child understands print and where they are to begin to read, tracking left to right with one to one correspondence with each word.
- Read the sentence after your child has worked it out for them to hear it fluently.



This book is too easy, my child can read it

Sometimes we do not move children through the reading scheme too quickly;

- This helps boost their confidence with reading as they are working with familiar sounds. This can help develop fluency and speed.
- If a child is reluctant to read at home we will send home an easier book to encourage involvement and independence – higher level books would be read at school.
- Sometimes a child can read all the words but does not understand the vocabulary or what is happening in the story. This skill is just as important!



We've read it once, why do we have to read it again?

- Your child's book are only changed once a week. This is deliberate.
- Children should be reading the same book multiple times across the week.
- This not only embeds the phonics knowledge they are practising but you should notice that with each read, your child gains fluency and speed.
- By the end of the week they should be much more independent and confident.



What can you do now?

- Continue to read to your child – this enables them to hear harder texts (more language) and enjoy books with you.
- Continue to assess their understanding – ask questions that have 1 or more answers so they have to really look for the information. e.g Who was in the story? Why was Jane sad? What happened after she got the present? How would you feel?
- Frequent short focussed sessions are far more beneficial than a marathon slog one night a week. Please aim to read with your child 3-4x a week at least.
- Always praise every effort.
- Please write a short comment in their Reading Record Book, explaining difficulties or successes. We all value home school liaison.



What can you do now?

- you may see something like this coming home in your child's reading record. The sounds they are not secure on will be highlighted to help you to know what to focus on when supporting your child.

this 'speedy sounding' word is a challenge for many children. It is important to use phonetic skills to blend rather than just sight reading a word that is difficult.

sh	ch	th	qu	ng
nk	ff	ss	ll	ck
Green Words (your child sounds out and blends the word)				
am	red	bin	yes	
chip	mash	pink	thin	
Alien/Nonsense Words (your child sounds out and blends the word)				
fas	gip	guk	rab	



Don't forget...

Reading with your child for 10 minutes a day **will** make a HUGE difference.

There is more to reading than just phonics, practise all the other skills too.

Most importantly...reading with your child should be fun for both of you.... If it isn't then please stop and try another time!



Any questions?

