

Welcome to Hugglescote

An Introduction to Phonics: Early Reading and Writing



Children arrive in EYFS with varying mark making skills.



Scribbling Stage

Children are still enjoying exploring where their marks take them.



Controlled mark making

Including zigzags, curves and loops...



Progressing towards recognisable letter shapes

Children start to form some shapes that resemble recognisable letters.



Letter shapes

Copying from their name
Copying letters from their environment

Whichever stage your child is at, it is crucial to celebrate mark making in various ways. We encourage children to use different implements and expose children to a wealth of different print rich materials in their learning environment.



Foundations to Phonics

To support your child this summer prior to them starting school in September, you can help to lay the foundations to phonics in a number of ways. Foundations to Phonics concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills. The emphasis during the Foundations to Phonics stage is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Oral blending - speaking to your child in sound talk/'robot' talk:

Go and get your c-oa-t.

Let's walk the d-o-g!

Do you want to feed the c-a-t?

Oral segmenting - encouraging your child to split the sounds in the words that you are saying.

We are going to the shop! Shop becomes sh-o-p.

You could also draw your child's attention to:

Environmental sounds

Instrumental sounds

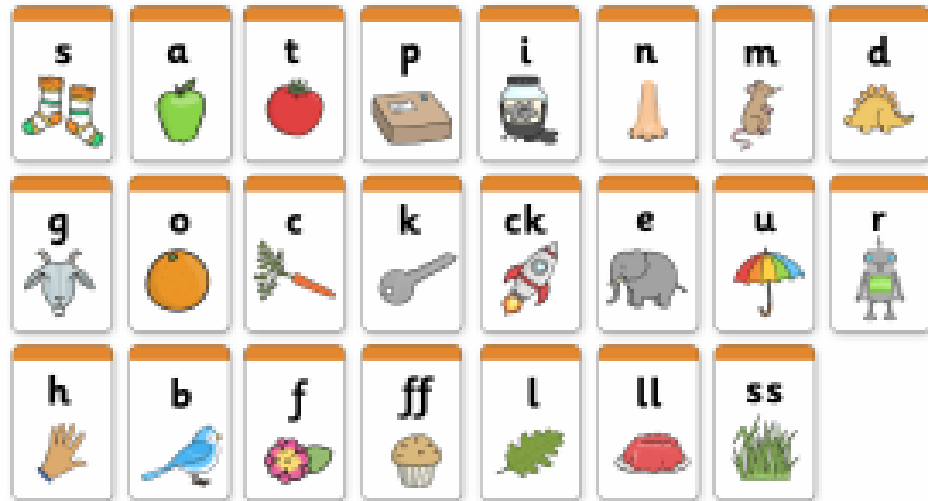
Body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping)

Rhythm and rhyme

Alliteration

Voice sounds

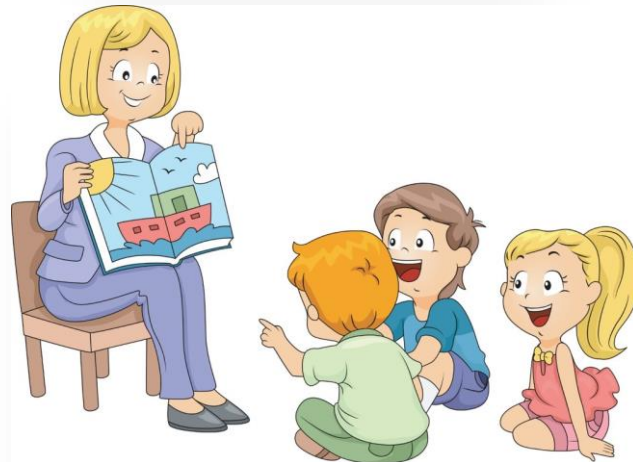
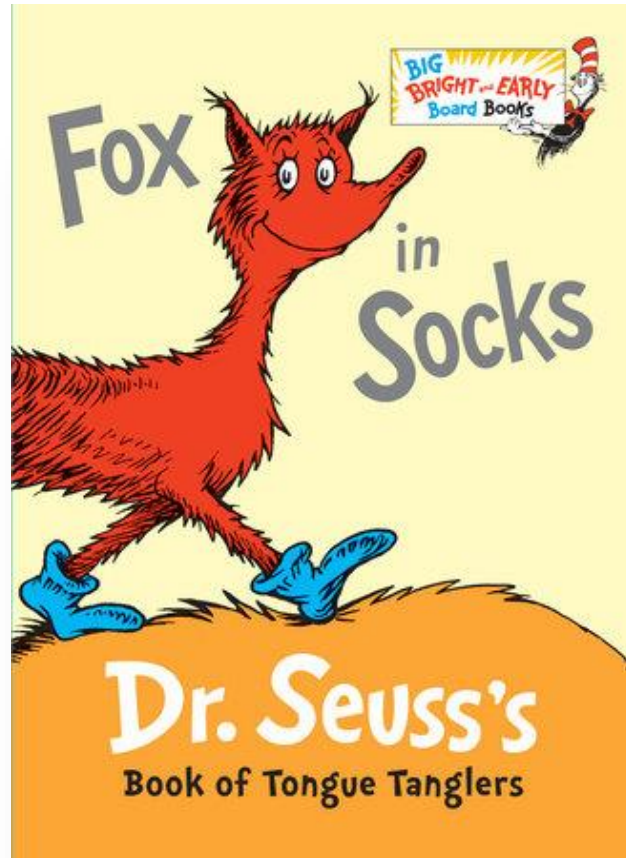
Phase 2 Sounds



Phase 3 Sounds



We begin our journey to teaching children to independently read and write with the use of structured systematic synthetic phonics.



Added to this is the promotion and encouragement to develop a love of reading through exposure to as many books, stories, songs and poems as we can fit our day of learning.

What is phonics?

Phonics is the teaching of the correspondence or the relationship between written letters, groups of letters and the sounds that those letters make.

What do the letters look like?
What sound do they make?

Why do we teach phonics?



We want our children to be able to confidently read any words independently and enjoy the books that they read.



We want our children to develop the skills that they need to attempt to write any word that they wish to.

How do we teach phonics?



- We teach phonics daily in small groups according to current attainment. This allows children to progress at an appropriate pace.
- Our sessions are always fun and have an interactive element.
- Each session moves at a quick pace.
- Our new knowledge is referred to throughout our day.
- We have a phonics display in each classroom.
- We follow the 'Review, Teach, Practice, Apply' approach to phonics, allowing children to revisit prior learning before learning something new.

Phonics Glossary of Terms

Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in a word.
Grapheme	A letter or group of letters representing one sound (phoneme) e.g. ck, igh, t, sh.
Blending	The process of using phonics for reading. Children identify and synthesise/blend the phonemes in order to make a word e.g. s-n-a-p blended together, reads <i>snap</i> .
Segmenting	The process of using phonics for writing. Children listen to the whole word and break it down into the constituent phonemes, choosing an appropriate grapheme to represent each phoneme e.g. <i>ship</i> can be segmented as <i>sh-i-p</i> .
Digraph	Two letters which together make one sound. There are different types of digraph - vowel, consonant and split.
Consonant digraph	Two consonants which make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th, ph.
Vowel digraph	A digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel e.g. ea, ay, ai, ar.
Split digraph	Two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e as in <i>make</i> or <i>late</i> ; i-e as in <i>size</i> or <i>write</i> .

Phonics Glossary of Terms continued

Trigraph	Three letters which together make one sound e.g. igh, dge.
Adjacent consonants	Two (or three) letters making two (or three) sounds e.g. the first three letters of strap are adjacent consonants.
CVC CCVCC etc.	The abbreviations used for consonant-vowel-consonant and consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. E.g. <i>cat</i> , <i>ship</i> and <i>sheep</i> are all CVC words. <i>Black</i> and <i>prize</i> could be described as CCVC words.

How the sounds are pronounced...

It is very important that we all model the sounds correctly to the children, both in school and at home. Here is a video to show how each sound is pronounced correctly. We call them 'pure sounds'.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTe5_Em0BHQ



Now that you know how the sounds are pronounced, you can use this at home to help your child blend (put the words together to make a word). Let's start with Oral Blending.

Oral Blending



Go and get your c-oa-t.
Let's walk the d-o-g!
Do you want to feed the c-a-t?

By saying the sounds out loud you give your child opportunities to blend sounds they are hearing to understand what you are saying. We sometimes call this robot talk.

Your turn.

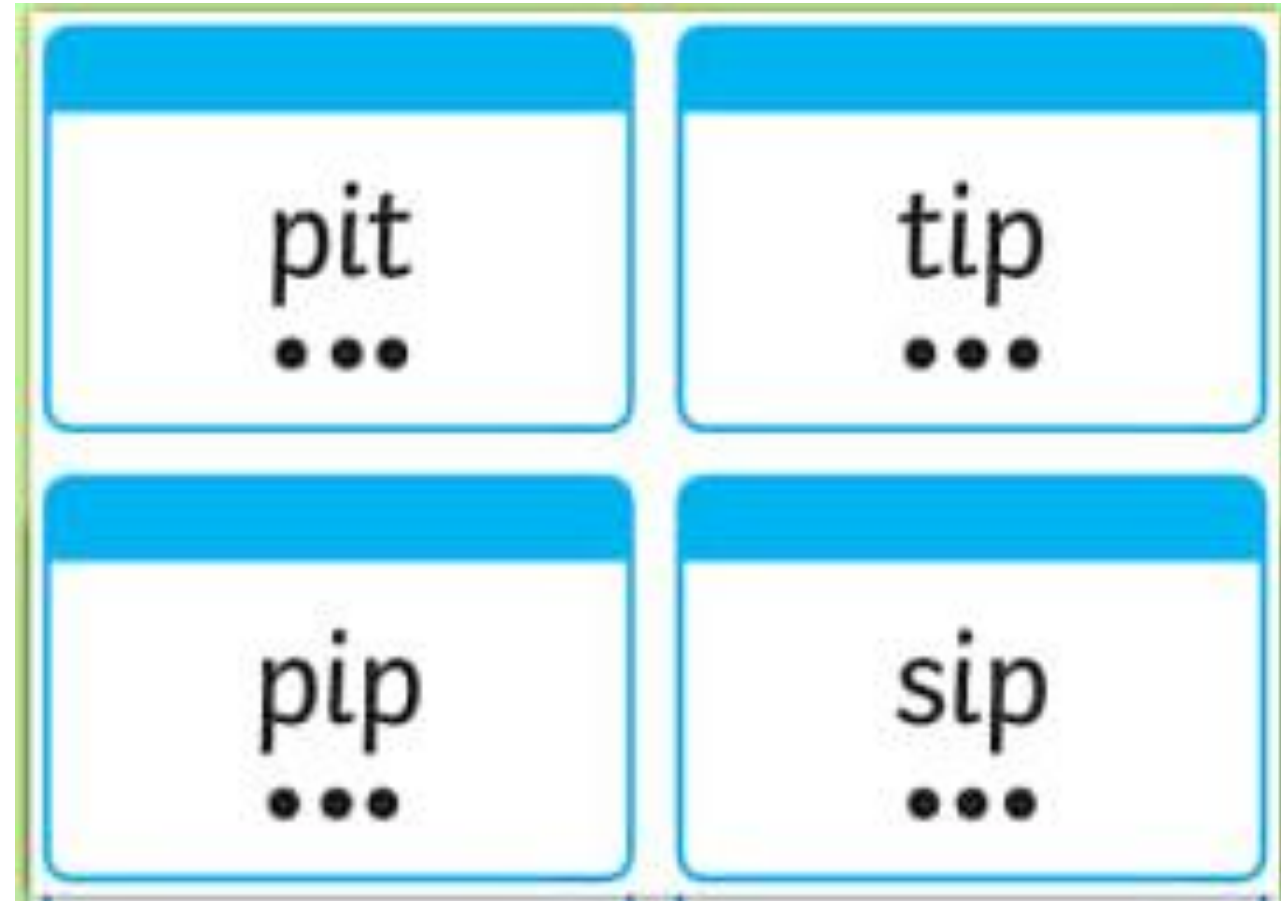
Say out loud...
Go and get your h-a-t.
Look at the bright s-u-n in the sky.
Have you seen the f-r-o-g in the garden?

You can do this at home everyday to help your child increase their blending skills. 😊
This then moves on to blending sounds they see in books.

Blending words

When blending sounds that your child can see in books, it is best to touch the sound buttons as you see each sound, then drag your finger along the whole word to show them the sounds need blending together.

When first learning we can model this and get the child to repeat, slowly they will begin to do this on their own with our encouragement.





quemp



hild



voo



chom



geck



blurst



thazz



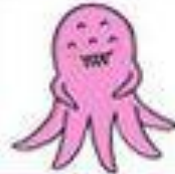
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terg



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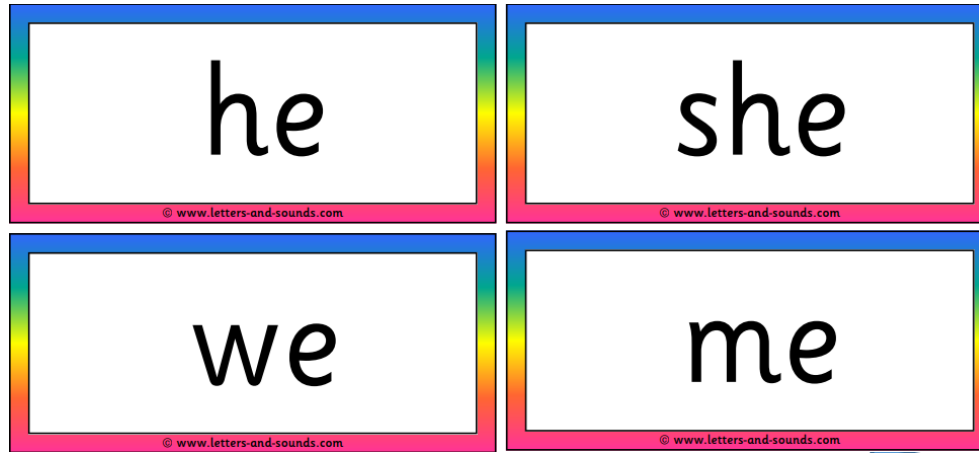
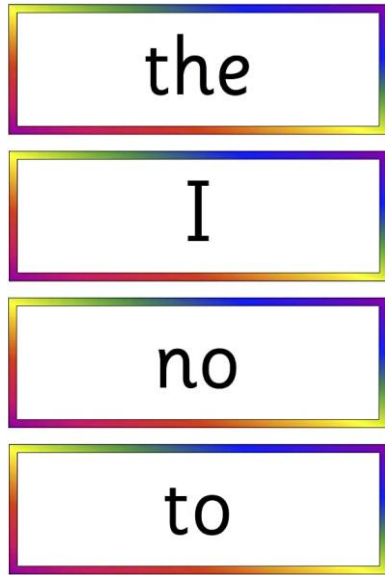
blan



stroft

A good way to test blending skills is giving your child 'Alien Words.'

Tricky words



We teach children tricky words by explaining that we can't blend them. It is important to come back to these words often and to learn them from sight. This needs to be done at home and at school. I have attached a video we like to use at school. (Prepare to have the tune stuck in your head).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvMyssfAUx0>

Have a go at blending these words. Tricky isn't it?

As well as reading children need to use their phonics knowledge to write... as soon as children learn sounds they can try to form the grapheme, when they learn a bank of sounds they can try to write words.

Formation rhymes



A lot of phonics schemes provide formation rhymes that help children remember how to form letters, for example around the apple and down the leaf for a. As soon as we have the formation rhymes for our new phonics scheme, we will get them sent to you.





Segmenting

• Segmenting really helps children write. It is the skill of hearing the sounds within a word. Phoneme frames are one way of helping children to segment. Can you segment these words in to your phoneme frame? Remember each sound goes in a square, not each letter. For example, shop would be sh-o-p as sh is one sound (a digraph- two letters, one sound).

- Cat
- Dog
- Book

Phoneme Frames

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Phase 2 Phonemes (& some Phase 3)

s	a	t	p	i	n
m	d	g	o	c	k
ck	e	u	r	h	b
f	l	ff	ll	ss	j
v	w	x	y	z	zz

Phase 2 Segment & Blend

cup	man	peg	jam
mum	bed	zip	fox
van	tent	hand	flag
mint	sock	stamp	dress

Phase 2 Tricky Words

the	to	I	no
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How do we assess phonics?

- We assess phonics regularly.
- We do this by testing children's sound recognition, blending, segmenting, (both real and alien words) and tricky word recognition.
- This then helps us decide what they need to focus on and allows us to place all children in the phonics group that will give them exactly what they need.
- An example can be found to the right.

What can I do at home to support my child?

- Robot talk (oral blending)
 - Ask your child what sounds they can hear in words
 - Read, read, read!
 - Phonics games
 - <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>
<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>
 - Sound and word recognition.
 - Write, write, write!
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