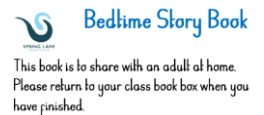


How to listen to your child read



- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Do it all with patience and love!

We have a storytime most days at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night. We have wonderful bedtime story books in school for you to borrow.



1. Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

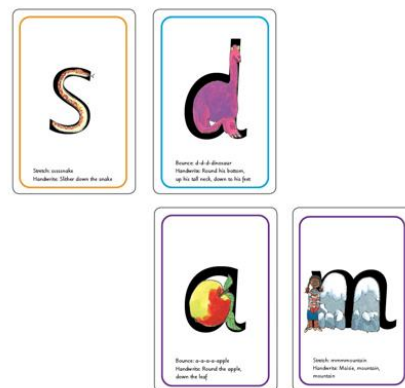
Before you get going, visit www.ruthmiskin.com/parents to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly you say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them.

Important: We say 'mmmm' not 'muh' and 'lllll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.

Your child will bring home the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards or a *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.

You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture. For example:

- 's' is in the shape of a snake
- 'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur
- 'a' is in the shape of an apple
- 'm' is in the shape of two mountains



2. Help your child to read words

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



Fred says the sounds and children work out the word.

1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read quickly, e.g. c-a-t.



Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.

Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.

Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

1. Put out three cards. This time, ask your *child* to say the sounds.

Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.

2. Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g. b-l-i-p, f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.

3. Help your child read the Sound Blending Books

Ask your child to read each word in sounds (Fred Talk) and then say the word. Then, he or she can turn over and check if they're right.



3. Help your child read the Storybooks

Black and White Storybooks

As soon as your child starts to read the *Read Write Inc. Phonics* Storybooks, he or she will bring home a black and white Storybook. This is a copy of the colour version he or she will have read at school.

Your child will have read this story three times with their reading teacher, so should be able to read the story confidently.

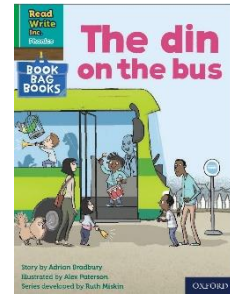
A brief explanation of how to follow the activities is included in the books.



Book Bag Books

Your child may also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has just read. Your child will need more support in reading this book.

Again, explanations of how to use the activities are included in the books.



Using the My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book

Ask your child to flick through the book and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the 'picture-sound' is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.

(For children on Set 1 Speed Sounds)



When your child has completed the Read Write Inc. Programme

Most children will have completed the phonics programme by the end of Year 2. This means they know all of their sounds and are fluent readers.

Children will then continue their reading journey using the Accelerated Reader programme. Children will be assessed at the start and given a reading level. They will practise reading books from this level at home and at school and will be assessed every term. The focus for the children now is on reading comprehension and they will take a quiz to assess their understanding after each book they read, Children will also have access to library books to enjoy at school.



Glossary

Fred Talk – sounding out the word before reading (blending)

Sound-blending – putting sounds together to make a word, e.g. c–a–t *cat*

Special friends – sounds written with more than one letter, eg. **sh, ng, qu, ch**

Speed Sounds – the individual sounds that make up words