



Phonics

Aa

A cartoon illustration of a black ant with large eyes, standing on the letter 'a'.

What is phonics?

- Phonics is recommended as the first strategy used to help children to read.
- It runs alongside other teaching methods such as Guided Reading to help children develop vital reading skills.

How many sounds in the English
alphabet?

What is phonics?

- Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes (letter sounds)
- There are 44 sounds in the alphabet.
- Children learn these 44 sounds in phases.

Phase 2

- In year R your child will begin with phase 2 and then progress to phase 3 and 4.
- These sounds are learnt in a specific order.



Phase 3



And so on...

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

1

- **GPCs**
- This stands for grapheme (letter name)
phoneme (letter sound) correspondences.

This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down.

Blending

2

Children are taught to be able to blend.

This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is.

This skill is vital in learning to read.

s a t
● ● ●

3

Segmenting

Children are also taught to segment.

This is the opposite of blending.

Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

For example the word: 'ship' children will break up the word into phonemes Sh i p

Pure sounds

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LITw0oiLNys>
- Please make sure you say pure sounds.
- So NOT: duh for d, suh for s, uh for u.

Here are a few of the songs that go with the
Phonemes we are learning:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCjJYB07aSU>

How is phonics taught?

- Phonics sessions are entirely made up from games, songs and actions and these sessions only last for 15-20 minutes per day.
- We usually start with a recap of the sounds we have already learned and any words we have been learning.
- We then learn the new sound, action and song that goes with it.
- Finally, we play games using sounds we have learnt and practise blending and segmenting them into words.
- The children really enjoy the phonics games and songs and they will often play the games outside of phonics lessons. We use Phonics play for games using the IWB.

End of year outcomes

By the end of the year your child should be able to:

- **Read** and understand simple sentences. Use their phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. Read some common irregular words, these are also known as tricky words that are learnt through sight and cannot be blended such as to, no, the, I , go, into. Talk to other about what they have read.

Home learning

We will send home the sounds that your children have been learning that week.

Please encourage your child to teach you the actions for the sounds they have learnt.

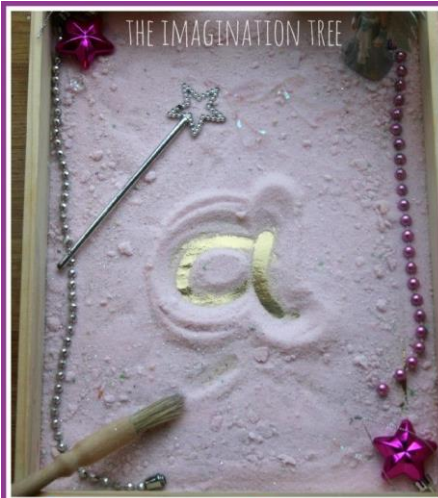
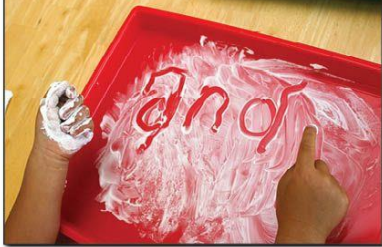
They may have an activity to do related to the sound, or handwriting practice. This doesn't always have to be done on the sheet provided. There are some fun activities to make phonics fun at home...



WRITING PRACTICE

using
shaving cream

letters • numbers • sight words



Fairy dust

sensory writing tray



Useful websites...

- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- <http://mrthorne.com/>
- <http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>
- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-games.html>

Apps

- Please be careful when buying apps online. Not all of them say the sounds correctly.
- Mr Thorne does Phonics has many apps which say the phonemes correctly.

Hope you found this useful?
Any questions?

