



Phonics and early reading in the Early Years and Key Stage 1



The impact of being read to from an early age

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.” – Richard Steele



A bedtime story a day

Children who are read even only one book a day will hear about 290,000 more words by the age of 5 than those who don't regularly read books with a parent or caregiver.



When reading a story to your child...



...Discuss the illustrations together

Children who hear more vocabulary are going to be better prepared to see those words in print when they start to learn how to read.

Read with expression...

Follow some of the writing with your finger so that your child takes notice of the words and understands you read English from left to right.

Typically,
children in the
EYFS are read
to at least
three times a
day.



Pre reading from birth to 5

Making sense of the illustrations

Remembering a story and retelling it in our own words.

Developing an understanding of how a story is structured.

Pretend play to tell our own stories.

From the age of 4

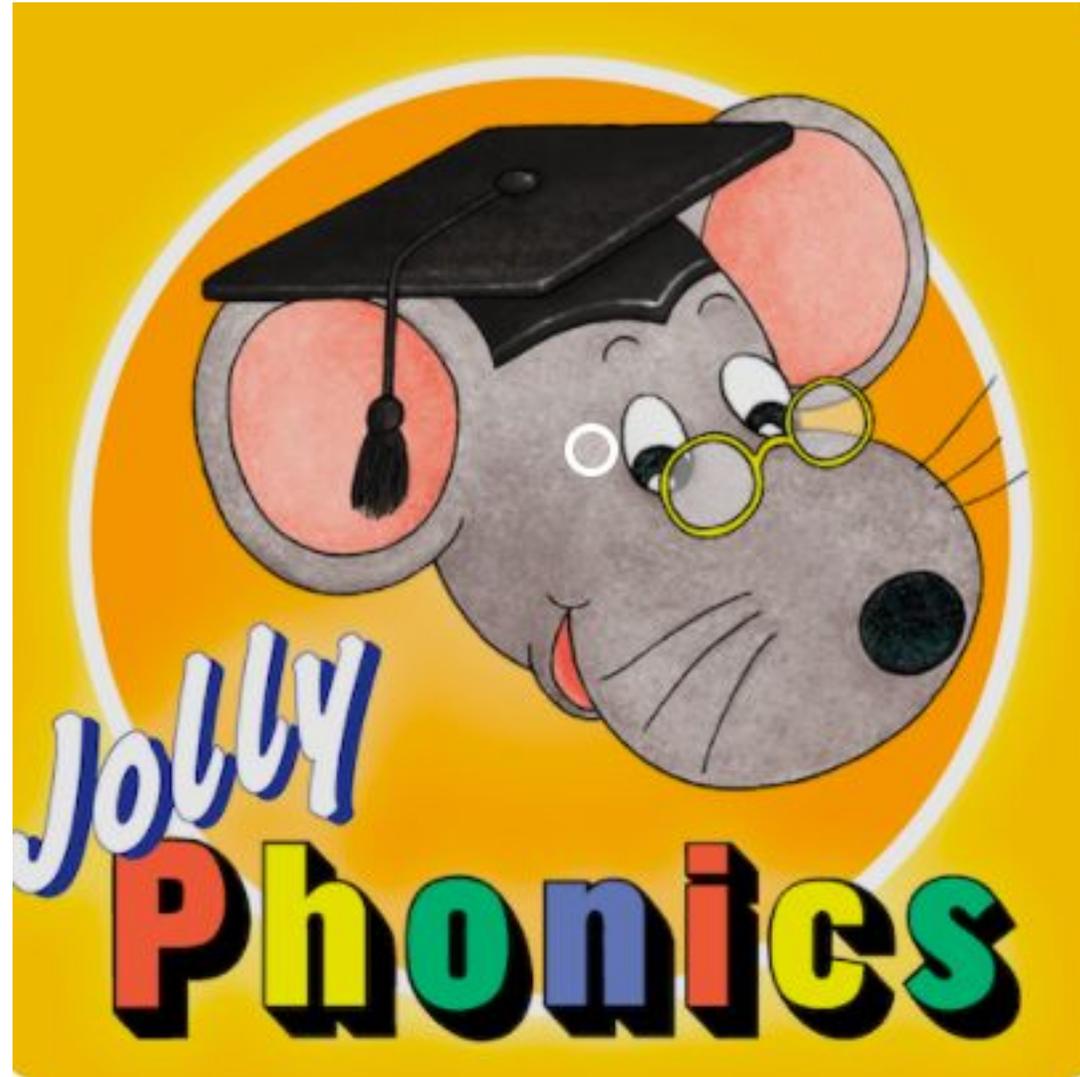
Children are still read to in class

They read as a group or individually with an adult

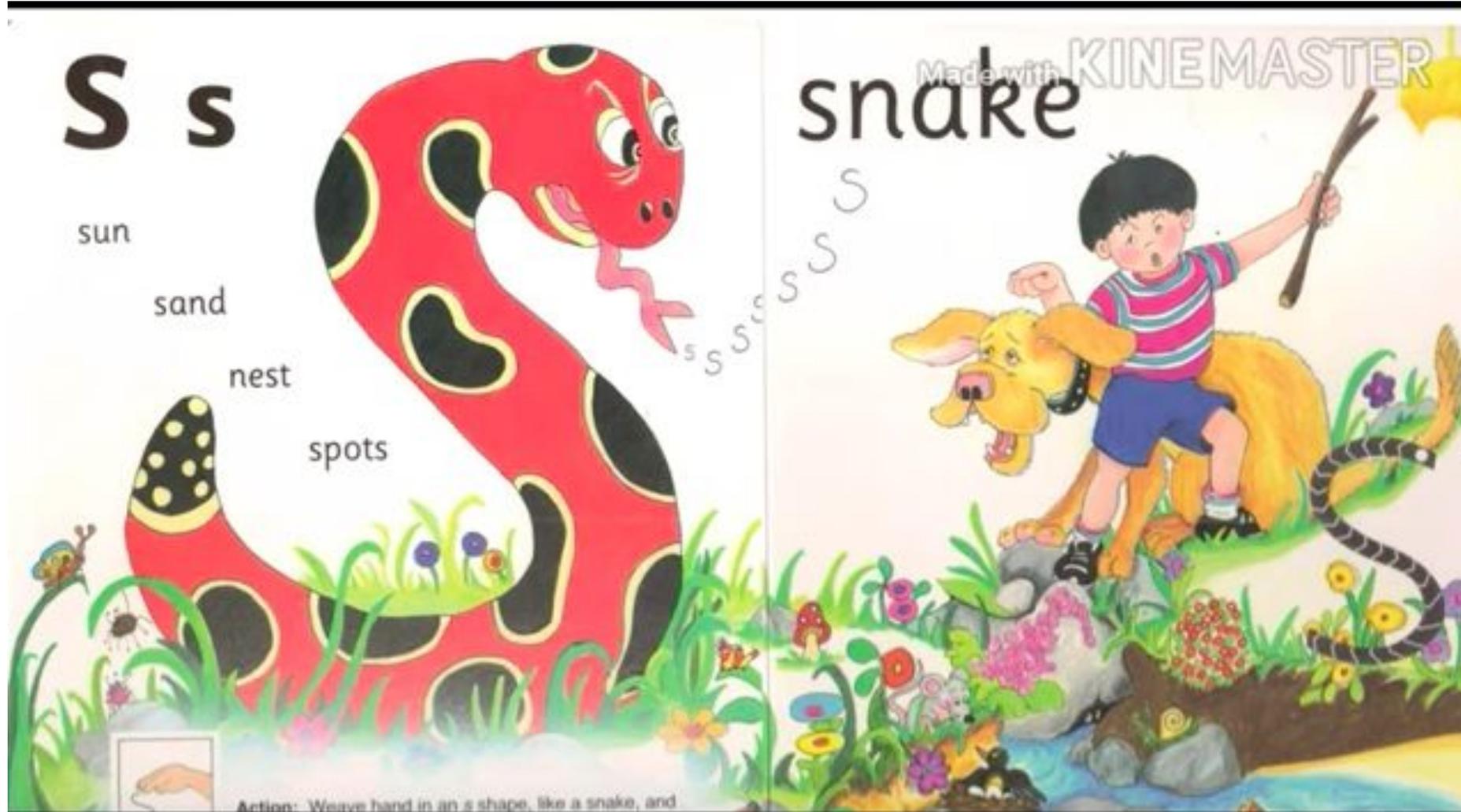
They have a daily Phonics session to given them the tools to read independently.

How do we teach
Phonics?

Jolly Phonics



Children listen to a sound story



They learn the sound with an action



← Lesson /s/

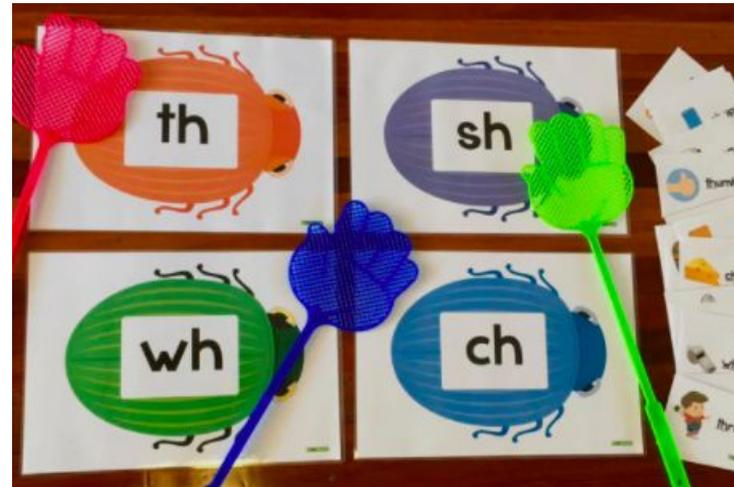
Song

The snake is in the grass.
The snake is in the grass.
/sss/! /sss/!
The snake is in the grass.



ACTION
Weave your hand in an 's' shape, like a snake, and say sSSssss.

A few technical terms...



A phoneme

The letter sound

/a/ of **a**pple

/s/ of **s**nake

/t/ of **t**ennis

Ssss not 'suh'

t, not 'tuh'

A grapheme

The written form of a sound

/a/ is written 'a'

/f/ can be written 'ph', 'f' or 'ff'

/i:/ can be written 'ee' or 'ea'.

A digraph

A combination of two written letters to make a sound.

oo ea ee ow th
sh ch

Segmenting

The ability to break up spoken words into their separate sounds.

bat

b - a - t

B b



ACTION

Place hands together as if bating a ball, and say b, b, b.

A a



ACTION

Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you, and say a, a, a!

T t

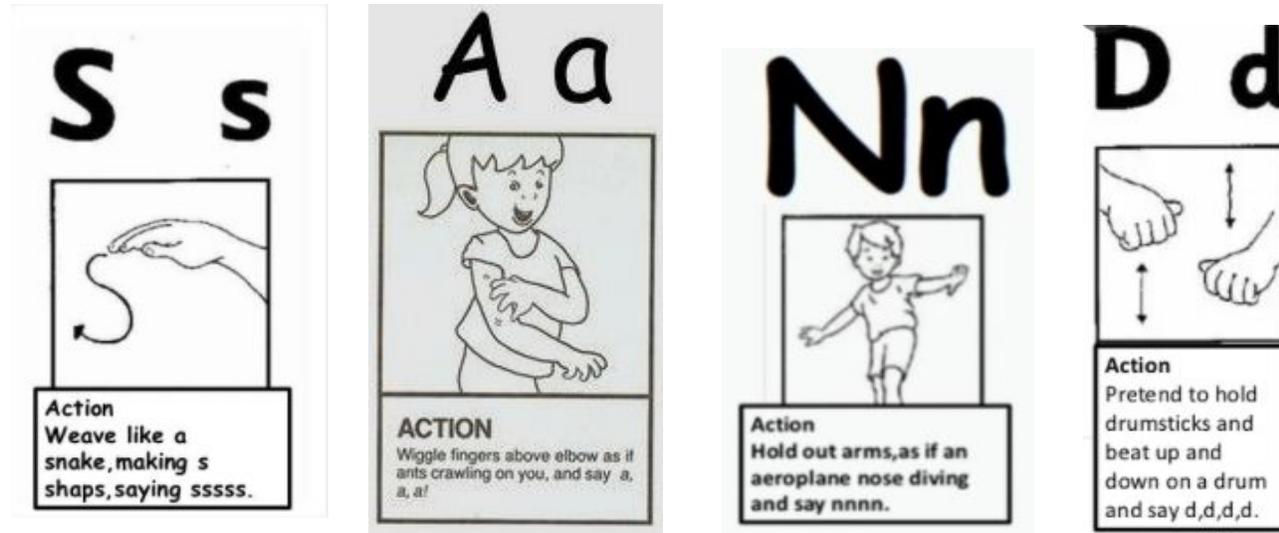


Action

Children imitate watching tennis, turning head from side to side, and saying t, t, t.

Blending

Joining together the individual sounds to make a word.



/s/ - /a/ - /n/ - /d/
sand

Tricky Word or common exception words

Words that do not always follow phonetic rules and that cannot be sounded out easily.

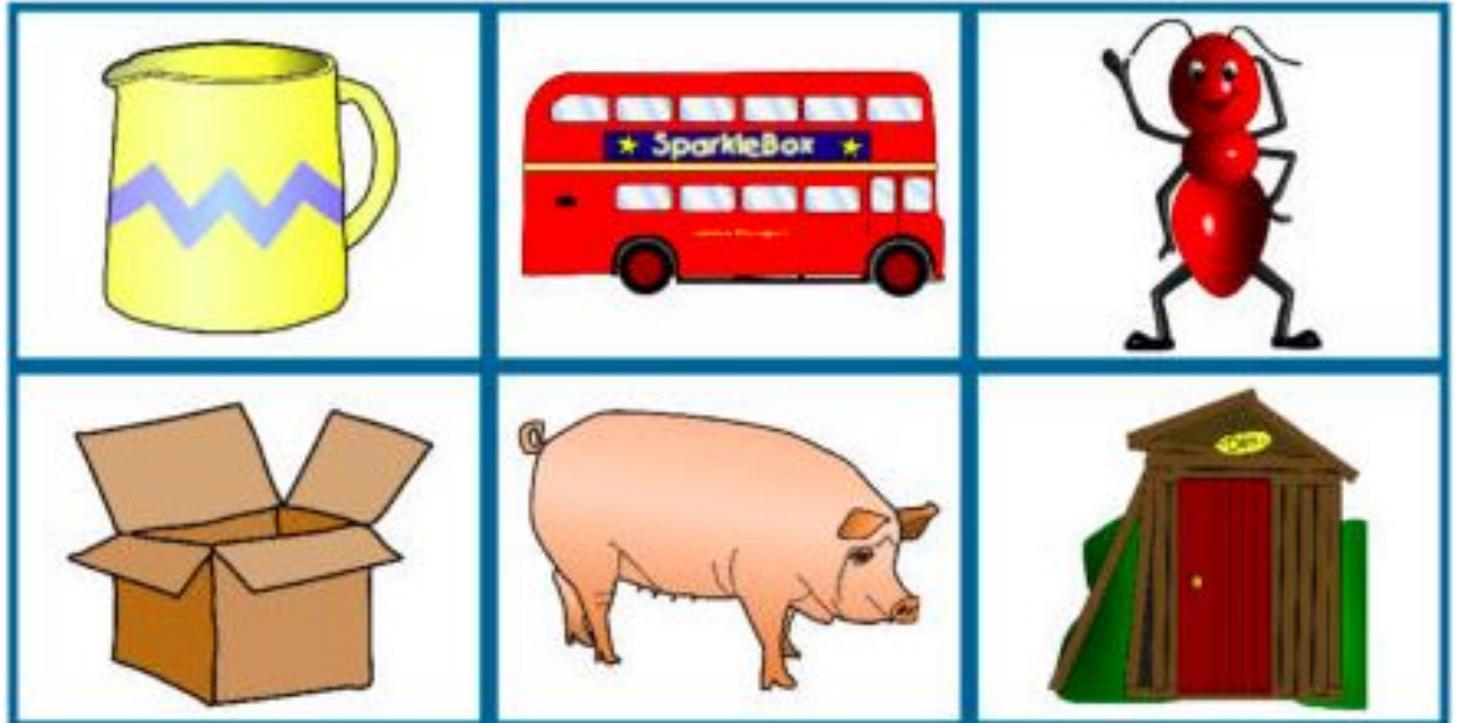
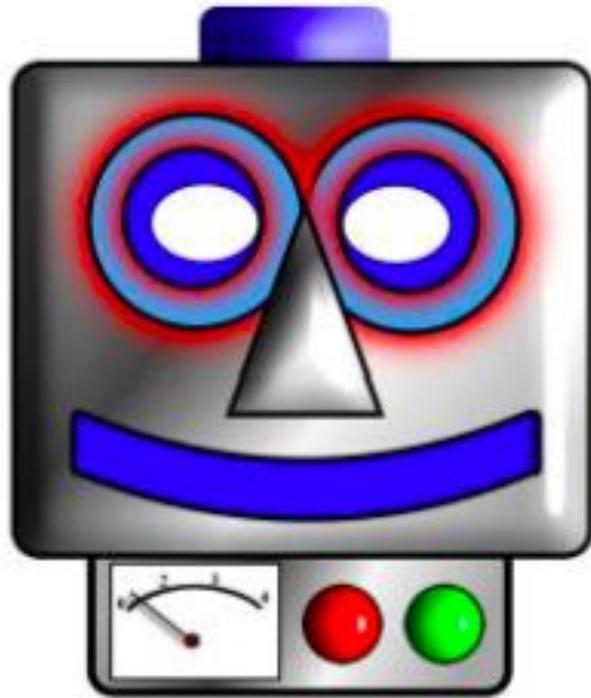
Children need to learn them by heart in order to read and spell them accurately.

Progression from Nursery to year 2

In Nursery

- Phonics activities that will help children articulate the sounds they hear in their environment.
- They play rhyming games and listen to rhyming stories.
- They learn how to hear and say the initial sound in their name and then in words.
- From January onwards, children learn the letter sounds of the 26 letters of the alphabet while continuing to listen to environmental sounds.
- In the summer term, children learn about oral blending and segmenting.

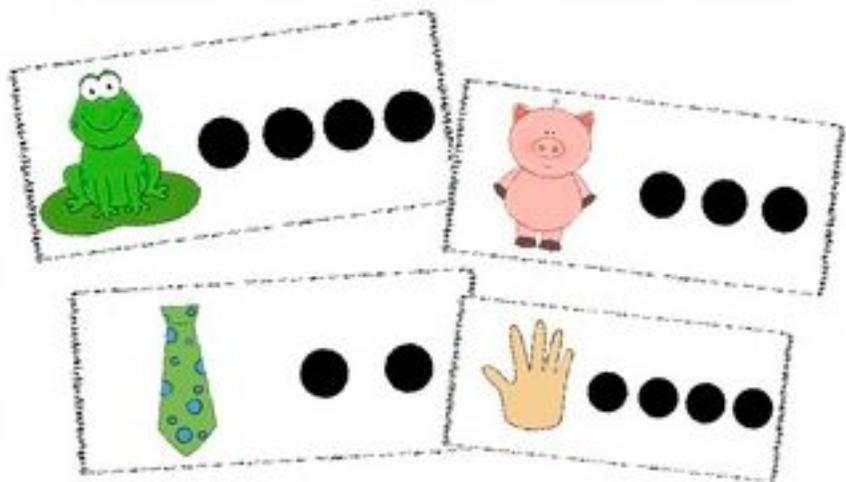
Metal Mike



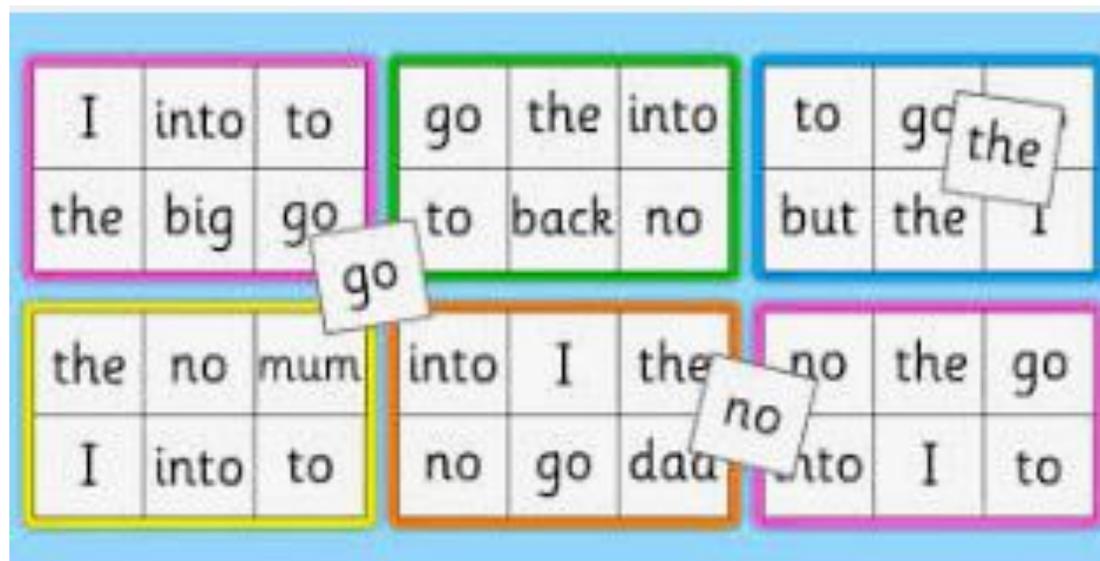
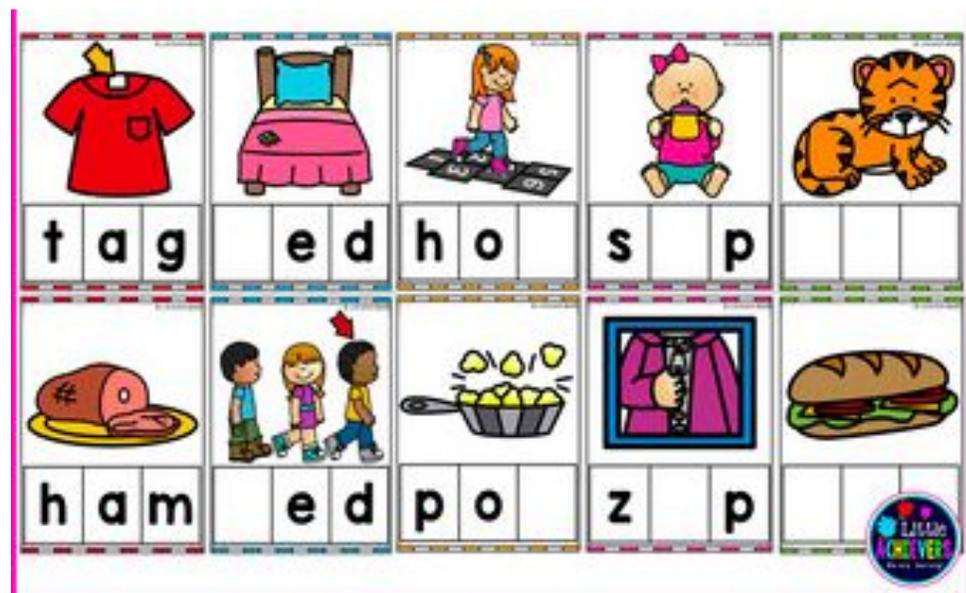
In Reception

- Children have a daily Phonics session.
- From September onwards, children revise the letter sounds that they learned in Nursery and they learn digraphs.
- They learn two tricky words a week.
- They learn how to decode words by segmenting and then blending sounds.
- By the end of Reception, children should be able to read sentences.

Segmenting Words



		t	h	a
		p	u	c
		p	i	z
		a	p	n





42 Letter Sounds In-order

1. s a t i p n
2. c/k e h r m d
3. g o u l f b
4. ai j oa ie ee or
5. z w ng v oo oo
6. y x ch sh th th
7. qu ou oi ue er ar

Tricky words

I

be

the

was

he

to

she

do

me

are

we

all

In year 1 and year 2

- Children have a daily Phonics session.
- They revise all the sounds that they learned in Reception.
- They learn the alternative spellings and pronunciation for some graphemes.
- They learn how to read and spell common exception words/ tricky words.
- They practise reading and writing two-syllable and three-syllable words.

Further graphemes for reading and writing

New graphemes for reading

ay day	oy boy	wh when	a-e make
ou out	ir girl	ph photo	e-e these
ie tie	ue blue	ew new	i-e like
ea eat	aw saw	oe toe	o-e home
		au Paul	u-e rule

Teaching alternative pronunciation for graphemes.

Known graphemes for reading: common alternative pronunciations

i fin, find	ow cow, blow	y yes, by, very
o hot, cold	ie tie, field	ch chin, school, chef
c cat, cent	ea eat, bread	ou out, shoulder, could, you
g got, giant	er farmer, her	
u but, put (<i>south</i>)	a hat, what	

Alternative spellings for phonemes

/c/	/ch/	/f/	/j/	/m/	/n/	/ng/	/r/	/s/	/sh/	/v/	/w/
k	tch	ph	g	mb	kn	n(k)	wr	c	ch	ve	wh
ck			dge		gn			sc	t(ion)		
qu									ss(ion, ure)		
x									s(ion, ure)		
ch									c(ion, ious, ial)		

/e/	/i/	/o/	/u/ (south)	/ai/	/ee/	/igh/	/oa/	/oo/	/ool/
ea	y	(w)a	o	ay	ea	y	ow	ew	u
	ey			a-e	e-e	ie	oe	ue	oul
				eigh	ie	i-e	o-e	ui	o (north)
				ey	y		o	ou	
				ei	ey				
					eo				

/ar/	/or/	/ur/	/ow/	/oi/	/ear/	/air/	/ure/	/er/
a (south)	aw	ir	ou	oy	ere	are	our	our
	au	er			eer	ear		e
	al	ear						u
	our							etc

Year 1 Common Exception Words

the
a
do
to
today
of
said
says
are
were
was

is
his
has
I
you
your
they
be
he
me
she
we

no
go
so
by
my
here
there
where
love
come
some

one
once
ask
friend
school
put
push
pull
full
house
our

Year 2 Common Exception Words

after
again
any
bath
beautiful
because
behind
both
break
busy
child
children
Christmas

class
climb
clothes
could
cold
door
even
every
everybody
eye
fast
father
find

floor
gold
grass
great
half
hold
hour
improve
kind
last
many
mind
money

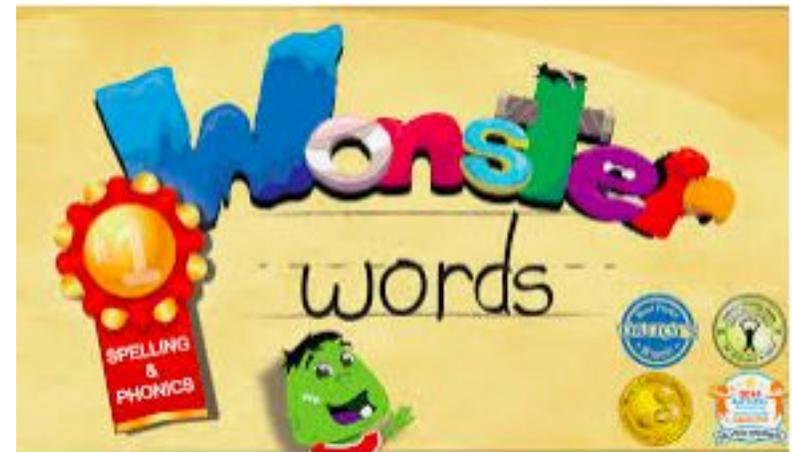
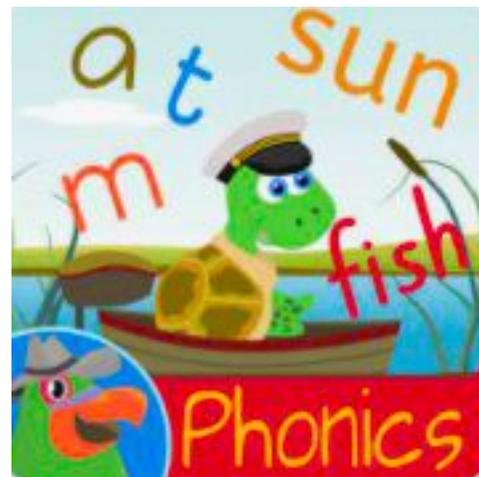
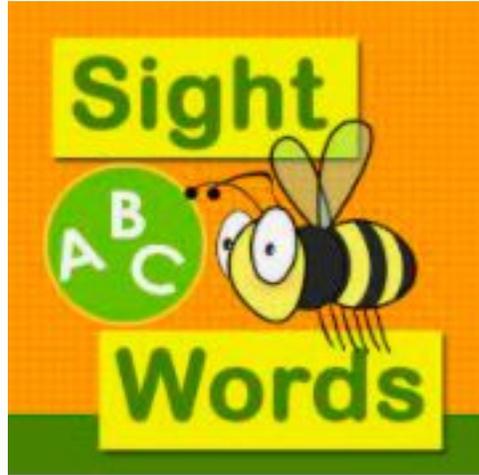
most
move
Mr
Mrs
old
only
parents
pass
past
path
people
plant
poor

pretty
prove
should
steak
sugar
sure
told
water
whole
who
wild
would

How to support your child at home

- Encourage children to segment words if they struggle to decode them.
- Encourage children to read their book every day.
- Read in their company.
- Read books together.

Useful apps



Useful websites

- www.topmarks.co.uk
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.ictgames.co.uk
- <https://www.education.com/games/word-patterns/>
- <https://www.splashlearn.com/ela/phonics-games>
- <https://www.twinkl.com/tr/>
- <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

