

Reading words on-sight

Some words are irregular sounding and cannot be blended or sounded out phonetically. We tell the children they are **tricky words** (on-sight words). Examples of these are: **said, the, was.**

There is unfortunately no easy solution for these words other than to learn to recognise them by memory on sight. With practise children recognise the shape and length of the full word.

We will be covering tricky words as part of the Read, Write Inc. Phonics programme.

A word pairs sheet will be sent home each week in your child's reading folder to cut up, practice and play games with.



Simple little games can help your child remember tricky words such as:

Reading Snap: Cut up your child's tricky words and play the traditional game of snap, encourage your child to snap on two words that are the same and say the word.

Bingo: Write out a selection / set of key words on a baseboard and again on separate cards, take turns to pick a word and identify it on the baseboard. The winner is the first one to fill all their words on their board and say BINGO!

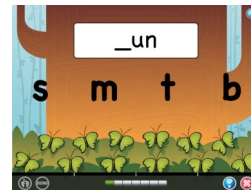
Word Hide and Seek: Cut up the words and hide them around the house. Children have to read each word as they find it.

Home access to online learning

We have a range of online home learning resources to support your child to develop their reading and comprehension skills. Children have their own logins for the following online learning sites which can be accessed through the internet on a computer, iPad or tablet.

Details of these will be placed in your child's homework folder.

Lexia Core 5



Lexia Core 5 is a progressive, personalised reading programme that develops their skills in all aspects of reading. Children complete a series of short games. Once they have completed a level they are rewarded with a certificate.



Letter-join

Letter-join includes animations of all the letters of the alphabet with a spoken commentary on how to write each letter. Patterns, Letters and Words can all be watched and traced on-screen. Magic Words lets you trace over your own words on a number of exciting backgrounds and Custom Words lets you input your own words, replay the video and trace over the words for IWB practice.



A PARENTS/CARERS GUIDE TO SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEVELOP EARLY READING SKILLS

This leaflet is a guide to how you can help and support your child to develop early reading skills.

There are lots of practical examples of activities you can complete with your child to develop early reading skills and promote a love of reading. The early reading skills covered are:

- Sharing books
- Read, Write, Inc. Phonics
- Sound games
- Reading words on-sight
- Home access to online learning

"Fun to teach and fun to learn!"

Sharing Books



Features of books

It is important that children learn the features of books. When sharing a book point out the following features:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Cover | Talk about what you can see. What might the book be about? |
| Title | Find the title. How many words? Can you find certain letters? What does a title tell us? (Clue to what the story might be about). |
| Author | Share the author's name with your child and explain an author writes the book. |
| Illustrator | Share the illustrator's name and explain an illustrator draws the pictures. |
| Pictures/illustrations | Encourage your child to talk about what they can see in the pictures. |

Discussion

Initially the reading books your child brings home will be picture books or books with only a few words. They are really valuable in developing children's early comprehension skills and are rich in language opportunities. As your child begins to read books with words it is still really important to discuss the book. Encourage your child to:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Describe | what they can see. |
| Answer questions | about the characters using the illustrations as a prompt |
| Predict | what they think will happen next. |
| Link | what is happening in the story to their own experiences. |
| Discuss | their favourite parts of the story and why. |
| Recall | can they re-tell the story? |

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics



Read, Write, Inc. Phonics is a rigorous and dynamic synthetic phonics programme aimed at creating fluent and enthusiastic readers, confident speakers and willing writers.



Children are taught the individual sounds first through a picture the same shape as the letter, for example for 'a' there is a picture of an apple and 's' is a picture of a snake. These are called '**speed sounds**' because we want your children to read them effortlessly.

There are 3 sets of sounds. Set 1 contains all of the letters in the alphabet. The first 6 sounds taught are **m,a,s,d,t,i,n**. Once your child knows these sounds they can start learning to blend the sounds together to read words.



Fred the Frog puppet plays an important role in the programme. Fred is only able to speak in sounds, not whole words. For example, Fred would say m-a-t we would say mat. Fred helps children read unfamiliar words by pronouncing each sound in the word one at a time.

Spelling with Fred Fingers



Children are taught to use their fingers to help them write words. If a word has 3 sounds children hold up 3 fingers. Children then pinch each finger as they say the sounds needed in the word then they write the letters that represent each sound.

Blending and Segmenting

Blending is the process of saying the individual sounds in words and then putting them together to make the word, for example:

s — a — t ⇨ sat
o o o

Sound out the word together saying the individual letter sounds to see if your child can hear the word.

If they are finding this difficult initially try blocking the beginning or the end of the word together to blend i.e. sa-t or s-at

Encourage them to 'have a go' as this will build their confidence and encourage them to keep trying. Even if they are not correct the first time, praise them for having a go.

Segmenting is the opposite process to blending. It involves chopping a word up into its individual sounds to write or spell for example:

tap ⇨ t — a — p
o o o

Practicing segmenting words orally during reading games also helps children to understand and build up their skill in blending.