

Dear Parents,

We all know that reading opens the door to all learning.

- A child who reads a lot will become a good reader.
- A good reader will be able to read challenging material.
- A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn.
- The more a child learns the more a child wants to find out.

It is, therefore, vital that your child finds learning to read and write a rewarding and successful experience.

The following pages outline the way our literacy programme works. We hope that you will not hesitate to ask for any help throughout the programme. We are here for your child!

What is Read, Write Inc?




This booklet has been designed for parents to support their children in learning to read.

To learn to read children need to

- learn 44 sounds (phonemes) and the corresponding letters/letter groups (graphemes)
- learn to read words using sound blending

The activities in this booklet are to be used with Speed Sound cards published by Oxford University Press and can be ordered through school.

Home resources you can order from school

	Speed Sound Cards Set 1 32 Picture-Letter sound cards
	Speed Sound Cards Set 2 + 3 32 Sound-Phrase picture cards
	Home storybooks reinforcing what they are reading in school (New titles)

Step 1: Help your child to learn Speed Sounds Set 1

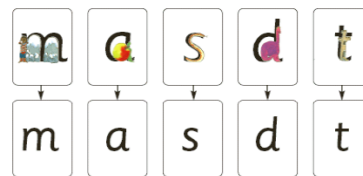
Before you start to teach your child, practise saying the sounds below.

These are the sounds we use to speak in English.

We use pure sounds so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily. At school we use a puppet called Fred who can do this beautifully! When we say words in sounds we call it 'Fred Talk'. E.g. d-o-g, c-a-t, m-a-n, sh-o-p, c-l-a-p.

Your child's class teacher can show you how to pronounce these sounds.

Please do not use letter names at this early stage.



These first sounds should all be stretched slightly. **Try to avoid saying uh after each one.** e.g. /mm/ not muh, /ss/ not suh, /ff/ not fuh.

- m – mmmmmountain (keep lips pressed together hard)
- s – sssssnake (keep teeth together and hiss – unvoiced)
- n – nnnnnnet (keep tongue behind teeth)
- f – ffffflower (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply – unvoiced)
- l – lllllleg (keep pointed curled tongue behind teeth).
- r – rrrrrrobot (say rrr as if you are growling)
- v – vvvvvulture (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out gently)
- z – zzzzzzig zzzzzag (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound)
- th – thhhhank you (stick out tongue and breathe out sharply)
- sh – shhhh (make a shhh noise as though you are telling somebody to be quiet!)

ng – thinnnnngg on a strinnnnngg (curl your tongue at the back of your throat)

nk – I think I stink (make a piggy oink noise without the oi! nk nk nk)

These next sounds cannot be stretched. Make the sound as short as possible avoiding uh at the end of the sound:

t – (tick tongue behind the teeth – unvoiced)

p – (make distinctive p with lips – unvoiced)

k – (make sharp click at back of throat)

c – as above

h – (say h as you breathe sharply out – unvoiced)

ch – (make a short sneezing sound)

x – (say a sharp c and add s – unvoiced)

You will find it harder to avoid saying uh at the end of these sounds.

d – (tap tongue behind the teeth).

g – (make soft sound in throat).

b – (make a short, strong b with lips).

j – (push lips forward).

y – (keep edges of tongue against teeth).

w – (keep lips tightly pursed).

qu – (keep lips pursed as you say cw – unvoiced).

Activity 1: Speed Sound cards – picture side Spread 5 - 10 cards out, picture side up. Say the name of each picture together.

Ask your child to touch each card repeating the above. Increase the speed.

Activity 2: Speed Sound cards – picture side Spread the same 5 –10 cards out, picture side up. Say the name of each picture together, but this time bounce or stretch the beginning sound. (Look on the card to check which to do.)

Ask your child to touch each card repeating the above. Increase the speed.

Activity 3: Speed Sound cards – letter side Spread out the same 5 - 10 cards, letter side up.

Say a sound, either stretching or bouncing it.
See how quickly your child can point to the corresponding card.

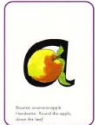
Activity 4: Speed Sound cards – letter side
Spread out the same 5 - 10 cards, letter side up.
Say a sound – no bouncing or stretching.
See how quickly your child can point to the card.
Now point to the card and ask your child to say the sound.

Activity 5: Speed Sound pack
Ask your child to decide the cards he wants to put in a 'Speed Sound' pack (the sounds that are known really well).
Encourage your child to read these at speed, getting quicker and quicker.
Try to increase the number of cards in the 'Speed Sound' pack until your child can read all 31 sounds quickly.



Hand writing phrases for helping your child to form letters

This works best if your child practises for a short time every day.



1. Show the picture side and air-write as you say the phrase



2. Ask your child to practise in the air with you

3. Using a sharp pencil and sat at a table, encourage your child to have a go

4. Praise your child for their efforts

m: Maisie, mountain, mountain

a: round the apple, down the leaf

s: slither down the snake

d: round his bottom, up his tall neck and down to his feet

t: down the tower, across the tower

i: down the body, dot for the head

n: down Nobby, over his net

p: down the plait and over the pirate's face

g: round her face, down her hair and give her a curl

o: all around the orange

c: curl around the caterpillar

k: down the kangaroo's body, tail and leg

u: down and under, up to the top and draw the puddle

b: down the laces to the heel, round the toe

f: down the stem and draw the leaves

e: lift off the top and scoop out the egg

l: down the long leg

h: down the head to the hooves and over his back

r: down his back and then curl over his arm

j: down his body, curl and dot

v: down a wing, up a wing

y: down a horn, up a horn and under his head

w: down, up, down, up

z: zig-zag-zig

q: round her head, up past her earrings and down her hair

x: down the arm and leg and repeat the other side

Step 2: Help your child to read words by sound-blending

Children learn to read words by blending the letter sounds that are in the Speed Sound pack.

Help children to say the pure sounds, as quickly as they can, and then to blend the sounds together to say the whole word.

We call this Fred Talk e.g. l-e-g, b-a-ck, h-ea-d, p-e-n, cu-p, g-r-ee-n

Make sure that children can read the Speed sound cards before you attempt to sound-blend a word.

Choose 3 cards from the Speed Sound pack that will make up a 3-sound word.

Muddle the cards and point to these sounds in and out of order to check these can be read at speed.

Put the cards in order and practise reading the sounds quickly until your child can work out the word.



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Information for Parents and Carers

