

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different phonemes (sounds) that distinguish one word from another.

Written language can be compared to a code, so knowing the phonemes (sounds) of individual graphemes (letters) and how these sound when they are combined will help children decode words as they read.

Understanding phonics will also help children know which graphemes (letters) to use when they are writing words.

Video: What is phonics?



Watch this fun animation to find out about phonics and understand the key aspects of learning to read using phonics.

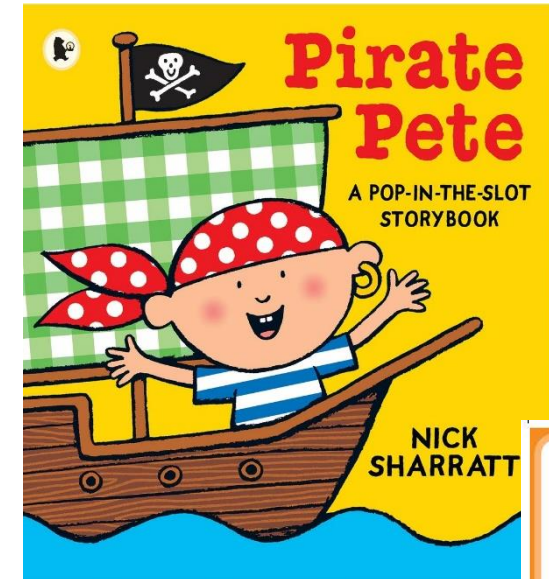
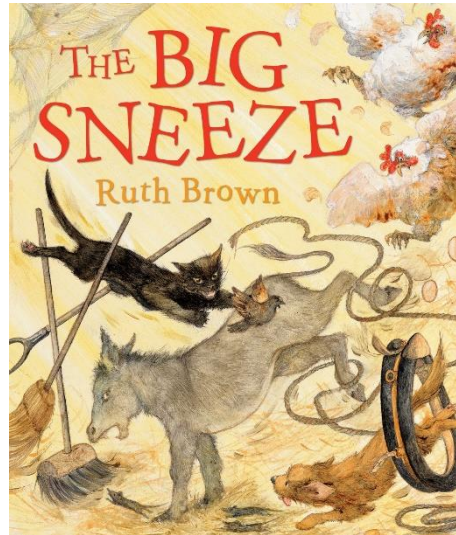
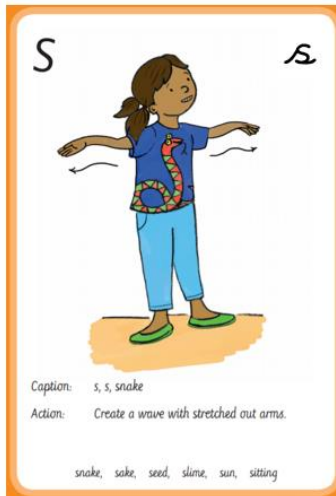
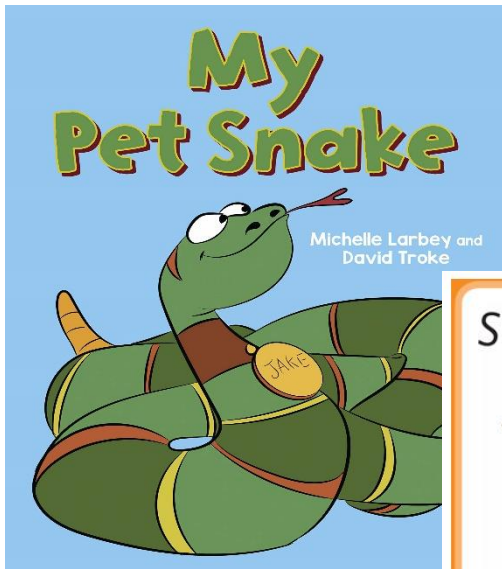
<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>



Phonics in Foundation Stage

In Foundation Stage phonics is taught through the use of books. Each book is magically delivered to the classroom by the Phonics Fairy and read during story time. Following this a new phoneme is taught by learning a caption and an action that matches the book.

Examples



Language used and skills taught during Phonics

Phonemes (sounds in words)

Graphemes (letter or letters that represent a phoneme)

Oral blending (merging sounds together out loud)

Oral segmenting (sounding out phonemes in words)

Reading and writing tricky words
(words that phonics can not be applied to easily for example the and was)

Reading and writing simple sentences

Phonemes taught by the end of Foundation Stage

s, a, t, p
i, n, m, d
g, o, c, k
ck, e, u, r
h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss
j, v, w, x
y, z, zz, qu
ch, sh, th, ng
ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

Video: How to say the sounds



It is essential that your child learns to articulate the phonemes clearly and precisely. To be able to support your child with the correct pronunciation of the phonemes follow the link below.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

Blending for reading

The skill of oral blending is usually taught before reading printed words but many children continue to find this skill difficult to grasp therefore lots of regular practise is required. Oral blending is being able to hear a series of spoken phonemes (sounds) and merging them together to make a spoken word. No text is used.

For example, we may say b-u-s, the children say bus.

Once your child becomes familiar with the grapheme for each phoneme then they will be able to use this skill to read words.

Video: How to blend sounds to read words



An explanation for how letters sounds can be blended to read words as well as top tips for how to practise phonics with your child.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

How you can support at home

There are many useful documents to help you support your child with phonics and reading at home on the Foundation Stage page of the website. Follow the link below to find out more.

http://www.pendragon.cambs.sch.uk/website/foundation_stage/180228

Resources to help with your child's learning:



Articulation of phonemes



Supporting Phonics at home....



Reading overview letter.pdf



Top tips for reading at home....



Prompts for your child's 'Shar...



Bug club letter.doc