

## Quick Guide to Phonics for Reception Parents

Initially, for the children to learn their sounds we use a program called Jolly Phonics. Jolly Phonics represents each sound with an action helping children to remember both more easily. **The alphabet contains only 26 letters. Spoken English uses about 44 sounds (phonemes).** These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 's' or 'h') or a group of letters (e.g. 'th' or 'ear').

### What is segmenting?

Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word cat, it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds; c-a-t. Children often understand segmenting as 'chopping' a word. Before writing a word young children need time to think about it, say the word several times, 'chop' the word and then write it.

### What is blending?

Blending is the process that is involved in bringing the sounds together to make a word or a syllable and is how /c/ /a/ /t / becomes cat. To learn to read well children must be able to smoothly blend sounds together. Blending sounds fluidly helps to improve fluency when reading. Blending is more difficult to do with longer words so learning how to blend accurately from an early age is imperative. Showing your child how to blend is important. Model how to 'push' sounds smoothly together without stopping at each individual sound.

### What are CVC words?

CVC stands for consonant- vowel- consonant, so and word such as map, cat is CVC. In phase 4 we talk about CCVC words such as clip, stop.

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### What are tricky words?

Tricky words are words that cannot be 'sounded-out' but need to be learned by heart. They don't fit into the usual spelling patterns. Examples of these words are attached under each phase. In order to read simple sentences, it is necessary for children to know some words that have unusual or untaught spellings. It should be noted that, when teaching these words, it is important to always start with sounds already known in the word, then focus on the 'tricky' part.

### What are high frequency words?

High frequency (common) are words that recur frequently in much of the written material young children read and that they need when they write.

**Phonics Phase 2** In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:

Set 1 : s,a,t,p    Set 2: i,n,m,d    Set 3: g,o,c,k

Set 4: ck,e,u,r    Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Tricky words introduced in Phase 2:

the	to	no
I	go	into

Tricky words introduced in Phase 3:

we	be	no	my	they	all
me	was	go	you	her	are

Tricky words introduced in Phase 4:

said	she	have	some	were	little	they
so	he	like	come	there	one	all
when	out	what	my	are	her	do