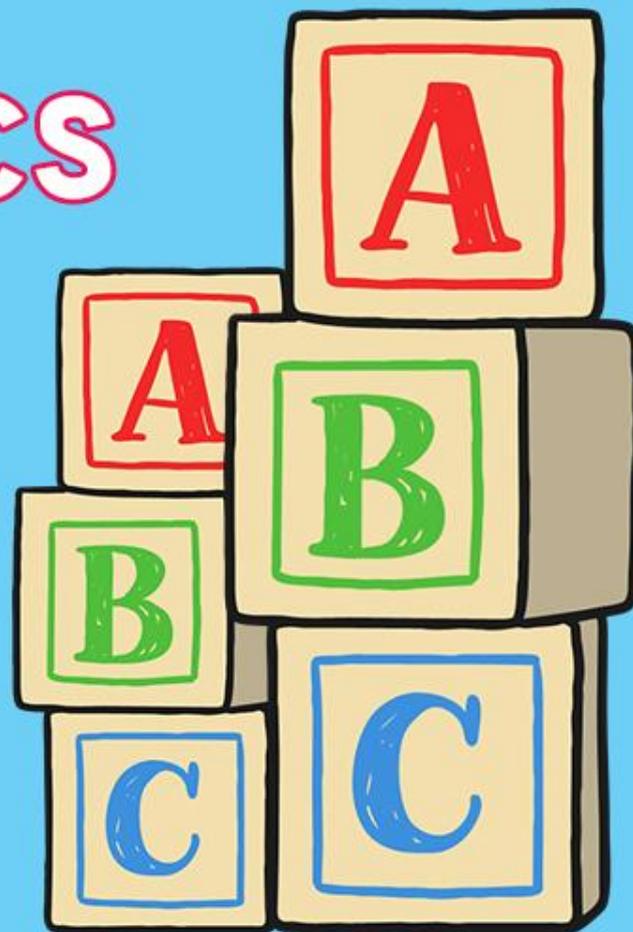


# How Children Learn Phonics

A Presentation for  
Parents and Carers

Autumn 2019



# Did You Know...?

The English language has:

**26 letters**



**44 sounds**

**over 100 ways to spell those sounds**



It is one of the most complex languages to learn to read and spell.

# The Jargon - A Quick Guide

**phonics** (also known as 'synthetic phonics') - The teaching of reading by developing awareness of the sounds in words and the corresponding letters used to represent those sounds

**phoneme** - Any one of the 44 sounds which make up words in the English language

**grapheme** - How a phoneme is written down. There can be more than one way to spell a phoneme. For example, the phoneme 'ay' is spelt differently in each of the words 'way', 'make', 'fail', 'great', sleigh and lady'.

**blending** - Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. 'f - r - o - g, frog'

**segmenting** - Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g"

# Pronunciation

It is really important to pronounce sounds softly when teaching phonics.

eg. mmmm rather than muh.

This really helps your child when they start to blend and segment the sounds together.

Mr Thorne does Phonics on YouTube is a great reference point...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqE7lDlCO4M>

# Letters and Sounds

Letters and Sounds is a resource for the teaching of phonics which was issued by the Department for Education in 2007.

It remains the most common way to teach phonics in British primary schools.

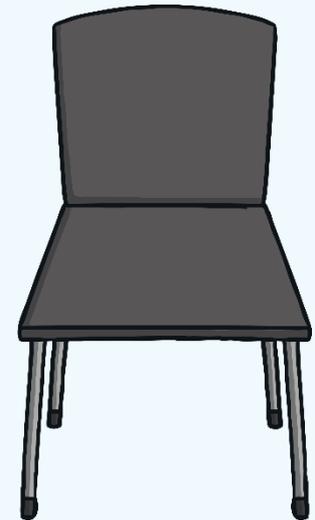
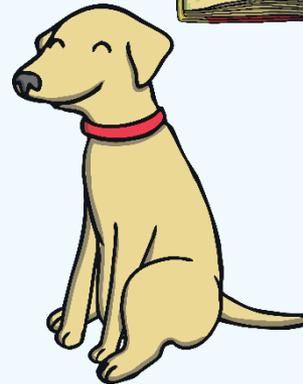
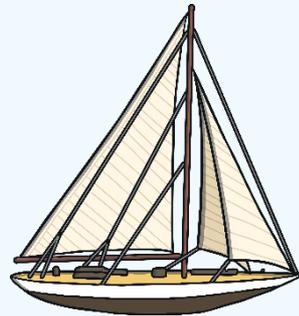
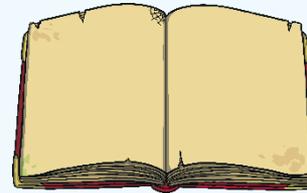
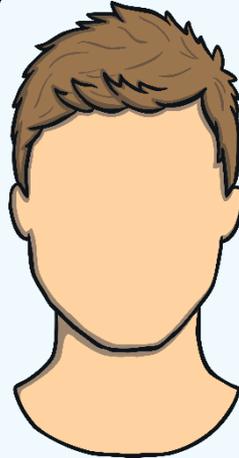
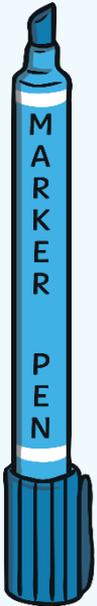
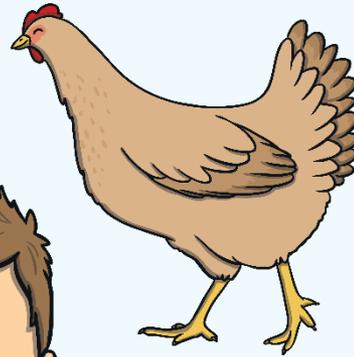
It is divided into six sections, or phases, intended to begin in the preschool years and finish at the end of year 2 (age 7).

# Phase One

Phase 1 has seven aspects, with a focus on listening skills.

- 1: Environmental sounds
- 2: Instrumental sounds
- 3: Body percussion
- 4: Rhythm and rhyme
- 5: Alliteration
- 6: Voice sounds
- 7: Oral blending and segmenting

# Find the Rhymes

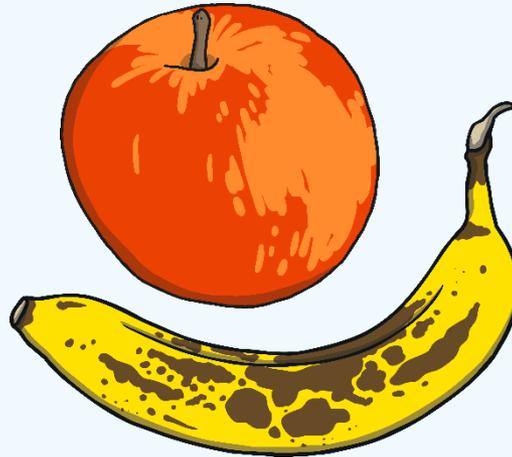
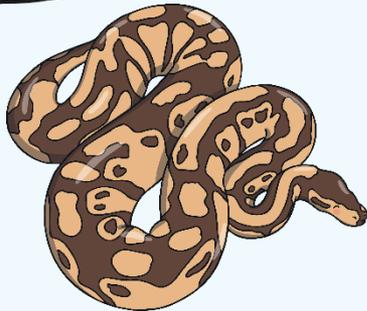
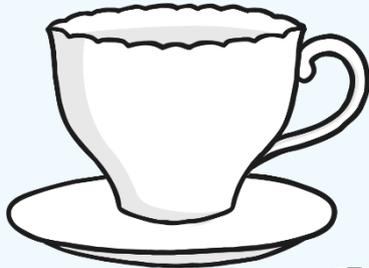
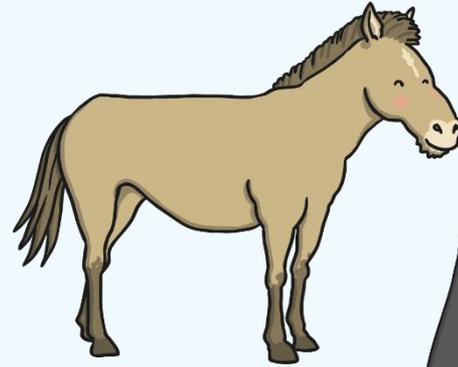
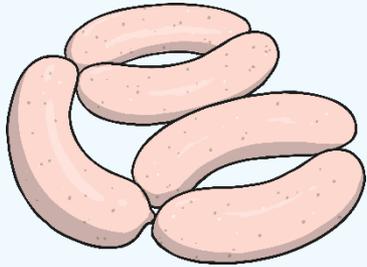




# Find the Starting Sounds

Can you find three things beginning with 's'?

How many things begin with 'h'?



# Phase Two

In Phase 2, children begin to learn some letter sounds and to match them to graphemes.

Most of the first sounds are single-letter sounds but there are also several digraphs, where one sound is represented by two letters, e.g. 'ck', 'll', 'ss'. The children will learn consonant digraphs eg. and vowel digraphs.

Children also begin to blend the sounds to make words. By the end of Phase 2, children will be able to read some 'vowel-consonant' (vc) and 'consonant-vowel-consonant' (cvc) words, e.g. up, in, cat, pin.

Five sets of letters are introduced – one set per week.

Children will also learn to read the 'tricky' words **the, to, go, I, no, my** which cannot be read phonetically.

# Phase Three

Phase 3 usually lasts around 12 weeks. Children are taught another 25 graphemes.

The final single-letter sounds are taught, together with more consonant digraphs (e.g. zz, qu) and several vowel digraphs (e.g. ai, ee, igh).

Children also continue to learn how to blend and segment CVC words using the new sounds, e.g. tail, sheet, night - note that these words still only have three sounds.

Children will then move on to blending and segmenting two-syllable words such as cooker, eating, broken.

Tricky words also continue to be taught.

# Phase Four

By Phase 4, children are able to represent each of 42 phonemes with a grapheme. Children will be able to read CVC words and begin to segment them to spell them. Phase 4 is consolidation of children's knowledge.

# Phase Five

Children will broaden their knowledge of graphemes and phonemes. They will learn alternative ways of spelling the phonemes they have already learnt.

They will learn strategies to help them choose the correct grapheme for spelling. Children will be reading with more and more fluency, no longer needing to 'sound out' most familiar words.

# Phase Six

Phase 6 is mainly taught as children progress through year 2 (age 6-7). Children are becoming fluent readers and more accurate spellers. They learn more spelling patterns and can read hundreds of words automatically.

# Literacy ELG end of reception

**Reading** - Children read and understand simple sentences. They use their phonics knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

**Writing** - Children use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. They also write some irregular common words. They write simple sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible.

## The Year 1 Phonics Check

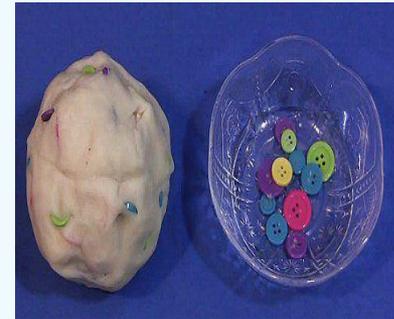
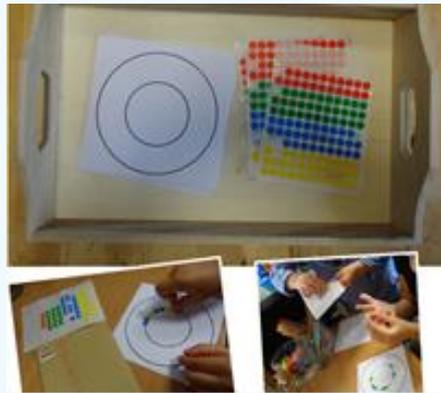
In June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the year 1 phonics screening check. The aim is to check that a child is making progress in phonics. They are expected to read a mixture of real words and 'nonsense' words. If a child has not reached the expected standard, schools must give additional support to help the child to make progress in year 2.

# What do our Phonics Sessions look like?

We warm up first:

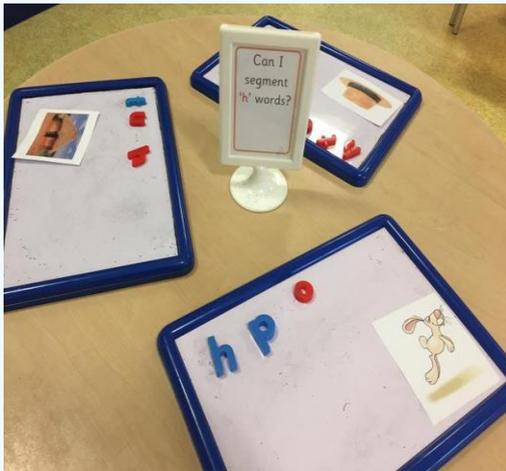
**Dance** all together as a class – focus on large body movements.

After half term, we will then have our **dough disco** and **funky finger** activities to music.



We **recap** our previous learning with a speed trial or mood words.

Then we introduce new sounds or skills in a multisensory way.



# Helping Your Child at Home

Work on listening skills - in the home and out and about.

Practise segmenting and blending - robot talk.

Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you - letter hunts.

Practise new sounds and graphemes - I spy.

Read to and with your child **as much as possible**.

Explore phonics apps such as *Teach your monster to read* and *Phonics Play*.

