

# Reading at home



At St Luke's we use **Read, Write, Inc** to teach children phonics. This information sheet should help you to support your child's reading at home using the strategies we have in place in school.

First your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:  
**m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x** and sounds written with two letters (your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch qu ng nk ck**
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,  
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,  
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy**
- Words containing these sounds

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**
- Words containing these sounds

## Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

Before you get going, visit [www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents) to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly *you* say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them.

**Important:** We say 'mmm' not 'muh' and 'llll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.

In school we use flashcards that have the sound on one side and a picture for that sound on the reverse. You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture. For example:

- 's' is in the shape of a snake
- 'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur
- 'a' is in the shape of an apple
- 'm' is in the shape of two mountains

## Help your child to read words

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she

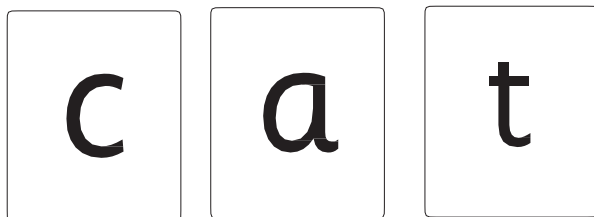


can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



Fred says the sounds and children work out the word.



1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read quickly, e.g. c-a-t.
2. Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.
3. Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.
4. Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

### **Help your child read the Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds**

Each sound has a picture and phrase to help your child remember the sound. For example:

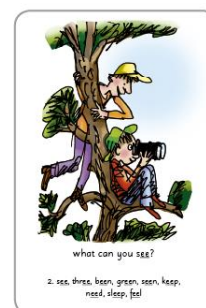
- the sound 'ay' has the phrase 'May I play?' with a picture of children playing together
- the sound 'ee' has the phrase 'What can you see?' with a picture of two boys in a tree.

### **Red Words**

These words are words that we cannot sound out- we simply have to learn them.

'You can't Fred a red!'

A pack of these words will be sent home to learn. It really is a case of practice makes perfect!



## Glossary

**Fred Talk** – sounding out the word before reading (blending)

**sound-blending** – putting sounds together to make a word, e.g. c–a–t *cat*

**special friends** – sounds written with more than one letter, e.g. **sh, ng, qu, ch**

**Speed Sounds** – the individual sounds that make up words

### Tips for reading at home

- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do it all with patience and love!

### **Resources**

If you would like to buy resources to help your child the speed sounds cards, sounds books and other resources are available to buy on amazon. There is no requirement to do this- handwritten cards will mostly do the job!

### **Further help**

[www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents) has many videos to help you help your child with the read write inc programme. You can also find some useful videos on the the 'ruth miskin training' youtube channel.

Please feel free to ask your child's teacher if you would like any more information.