

Definition of Terms - Phonics



'Special Friends'	Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. ck, ay, igh, oa.
Fred Talk	Fred the Frog helps children read and spell. He can say the sounds in words, but he can't say the whole word, so children have to help him. To help children read, Fred (the teacher) says the sounds and then children say the word. For example, Fred says c-a-t, children say cat, Fred says l-igh-t, children say light. Teachers are encouraged to use Fred Talk through the day, so children learn to blend sounds. For example: Play Simon Says: Put your hands on your h-ea-d/ f-oo-t/ kn-ee. Put on your c-oa-t/ h-a-t/ s-c-ar-f. Set the table with a b-ow-l/ f-or-k/ s-p-oo-n.
'Fred in your head'	Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds silently in their heads. We show them how to do this by: 1. whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word; 2. mouthing the sounds silently and then saying the whole word; 3. saying the whole word straight away.
Perfect pencil grip	Children sit at a table to write. They hold up a pencil in a tripod pencil grip with the non-writing hand flat holding their paper
Set 1 Speed Sounds	m a s d t l 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
Set 2 Speed Sounds	ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy
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
Sound Blending	Putting sounds together to make a word – 'f-r-e-d' makes fred when read together.
Consonant	The letters of the alphabet (apart from the vowels a, e, i, o and u).
CVC word	A consonant-vowel-consonant word, such as cat, pin, top
CCVC	A consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant word, such as clap and from.
CVCC	A consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant word, such as mask and belt
Digraph	A grapheme made up of two letters that makes one sound (sh in shop)
Grapheme	Graphemes are the written representation of sounds. A grapheme may be four letters in length (ough).
Phoneme	Phonemes are the smallest unit of speech-sounds which make up a word. If you change a phoneme in a word, you would change its meaning. For example, there are three phonemes in the word sit /s/-/i/-/t/. If you change the phoneme /s/ for /f/, you have a new word, fit. If you change the phoneme /t/ in fit for a /sh/, you have a new word, fish – /f/- /i/-/sh/. There are around 44 phonemes in English and they are represented by graphemes in writing.
Segmenting	Segmenting involves breaking up a word that you hear into its sounds. This helps with spelling because if you know what graphemes represent the sounds in the word, you can write it! For example, the word jam is segmented into the sounds j-a-m.
Split digraph	A digraph that is split between a consonant (a-e in make). A split digraph usually changes the sound of the first vowel. For example, compare the pronunciation between man and made.
Tricky words	Words that are commonly used in English, but they have spelling patterns which make them difficult to read and write using introductory phonic knowledge. For example, said, of and was
Trigraph	A grapheme made up of three letters that makes one sound (igh in high).
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o and u.