



What is phonics?

- Phonics is a method used for teaching children how to read and write the alphabetic language. It is done by demonstrating the relationship between the sounds of the spoken language and the letters.
- Phonics helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another.

- Written language can be compared to a code - i.e. knowing the sound that individual letters make when they are combined will help the children decode words they read.
- Understanding phonics will also help children know which letters or combinations of letters to use when they are writing..

Why is phonics so important?

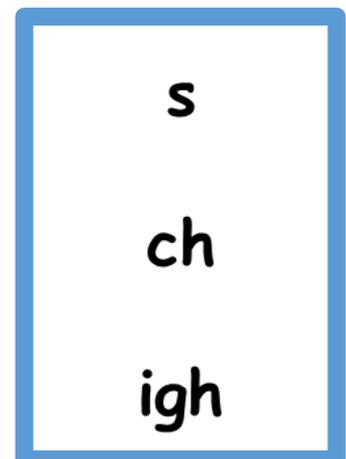
Phonics is the route to reading.

If you think about the number of times you read in each day, it's easy to see why we're so keen on teaching children to read fluently. Without good reading skills, it's very difficult for children to access not only reading books, but other areas of the curriculum too. Even in maths, there are going to be some elements of reading.

What are the sounds?

There are 44 individual sounds in the English language. These are called phonemes.

- Phonemes are the smallest unit of sounds that make up a word, and each phoneme has a distinct sound.
- For example in the word dog, there are 3 phonemes, d-o-g.
- Phonemes can be made up of one, two or three letters.



How do we say them?

It is really important to make sure we always pronounce the sounds correctly when reading or writing with our children.

The sounds are often said in a different way than you may be used to, which can make it a challenge!

Have a look at the phoneme list and different pronunciations now. Are there any that surprise you?

'mmm'
not 'muh'

'sss'
not 'suh'

'fff'
not 'fuh'

There are 44 sounds (or phonemes) in the English Language.

<u>s</u> sit	<u>t</u> tip	<u>p</u> pet	<u>n</u> neck	<u>m</u> man	<u>a</u> apple	<u>e</u> egg	<u>i</u> ink	<u>o</u> off	<u>g</u> grapes	<u>d</u> duck
<u>c</u> <u>k</u> clock	<u>r</u> rug	<u>h</u> him	<u>u</u> under	<u>ai</u> train	<u>ee</u> bee	<u>igh</u> night	<u>b</u> bed	<u>f</u> frog	<u>l</u> lorry	<u>j</u> jam
<u>v</u> van	<u>oa</u> goat	<u>oo</u> look	<u>oo</u> food	<u>ar</u> car	<u>w</u> wish	<u>x</u> box	<u>y</u> yellow	<u>z</u> zip	<u>qu</u> queen	<u>or</u> fork
<u>ur</u> burn	<u>ow</u> cow	<u>oi</u> coin	<u>ch</u> chips	<u>sh</u> shed	<u>th</u> teeth	<u>th</u> this	<u>ng</u> ring	<u>ear</u> near	<u>air</u> stairs	<u>ure</u> pure

 44 Phonemes Chart TimeForPhonics.co.uk

How do we teach phonics?

We teach phonics through short daily lessons, through guided or individual reading and through play.

Phonics teaching is often fast-paced and children will learn a new sound nearly every day.

Children will start by learning the individual phonemes, and then start to blend those phonemes to read short words and captions.

s-i-t = sit

l-igh-t = light

m-o-p = mop

t-ee-th = teeth

Children will also learn about words that cannot be sounded out using their phonics knowledge alone.

These words are called "Common Exception Words" or "Tricky Words". These words are difficult to read using phonic knowledge alone. Some parts of the word may be decodable, but the rest may not. For example with the word 'was' - early on in children's reading journey the w and s are decodable, but the 'a' makes an 'o' sound. Later on children will be taught that the 'a' in 'was' makes an 'o' sound.

For this reason, we have to teach children to read and write these words partly using their phonics skills, and partly through explicit teaching.

the

was

said

people

How can you help your child?

You can support your child in their phonics journey in lots of different ways.

- Read stories and books as often as possible. Your children can read to you but they will also benefit from you reading to them.
- Practise the sounds that we are working on at school.
- Use the flashcards and game ideas to practise at home.
- Make sure you ask if you are unsure of anything!

What is Time for Phonics?

At Camp School. We have chosen to use Time for Phonics to deliver phonics lessons to your child.

Time for Phonics is an **award winning**, effective systematic synthetic phonics programme with a multi-sensory approach that provides all that is essential for children to become successful, committed and enthusiastic readers.

We have chosen it because:

- It is multi-sensory, and takes into account children's different learning styles and interests.
- It has hands-on ideas that don't require children to sit and listen for long periods.
- It has fresh up-to-date ideas for phonics that adhere to the government guidance.
- It is an affordable, effective solution for phonics where pupils make rapid progress.
- It has online phonics games that help prepare children for the Phonics Screening Check in year 1.
- It has printable stories that are diverse, and reflect the real world that we live in.

How is the programme structured?

- The programme consists of daily teaching sessions that teach the main sounds that children need to learn, in a clearly defined, incremental sequence of revisit and review, teach, practise and apply.
- Around four new sounds are introduced per week, in addition to time spent revisiting and reviewing previously learned sounds.
- Tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out) are introduced gradually throughout the programme.
- The order of teaching of sounds and tricky words are aligned with the order of progression of the decodable books to ensure that children are only assigned reading books closely matched to their phonics attainment.
- The programme progression provides pace and the chance to revisit, review, practise and apply knowledge.

Phonics is split into phases, and Time for Phonics includes phases 1 to 5. Typically phase 1 would be taught to nursery age children, with Reception children recapping phase 1, and then starting phase 2 in the Autumn term.

Intervention

For children who may need some extra support, we can use the structured intervention programme to give children additional opportunities to practise their phonics skills. This will be done in small groups, for short bursts of time.