



Read Write Inc.

at

Dr South's CE Primary School -  
Information for Parents and Carers



### Read Write Inc.

At the heart of Read Write Inc. Phonics is the systematic teaching of all the common sounds in the English language (RWI calls these the Speed Sounds). Children are taught to recognise the sounds and to put them together ('sound blend' them) into words for reading.

Children are taught one way of representing the 44 main sounds of English first, and then go on to learn the alternative spellings later on.

When teaching the letter sounds, it is important to remember to use pure sounds ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily.

### Phonics Terminology

**Phoneme** - the smallest unit of sound in a language. If the phoneme is changed the word may change e.g. change the l sound in 'lack' to a b and the word changes to 'back'.

**Grapheme** - A grapheme is a symbol of a phoneme. It is a letter or group of letters representing a sound.

**Segmenting and blending** - Segmenting consists of breaking words down into phonemes to spell. Blending consists of building words from phonemes to read. Both skills are important.

**Digraph** - Two letters come together to make a phoneme e.g. /oa/ makes the sound in 'boat' and is also known as a vowel digraph. There are also consonant digraphs, for example, /sh/ and /ch/.

**Trigraphs** - Three letters come together to make one phoneme e.g. /igh/ in 'light'.

**Split Digraph** - means that a vowel sound has been split. e.g. the /a-e/ in cake, /o-e/ in wrote.



## Read Write Inc. Terminology

**Speed Sounds** - The 'Pure Sound' of the letter (without 'uh' on the end).

**Green words** - Words that can be sounded out using pure sounds (synthetic phonics) e.g. cat, frog,

**Red Words** - Words that cannot be sounded out (also known as sight words) e.g. my, I, said

**Fred Fingers** - A way for children to physically sound out each letter in a word and keep track.

**Fred Talk** -When we say words in sounds we call it 'Fred Talk', e.g. /d/o/g/, /c/a/t/, /m/a/n/,

**Special Friends**—all digraphs and trigraphs e.g. /oa/ in 'boat' or /igh/ in 'light'.

## Speed Sounds

Read Write Inc. introduces the simple sounds with Speed Sounds Set 1 and Set 2. They then learn more ways of writing the same sounds with the complex Speed Sounds Set 3.

### Speed Sounds Set 1

m - a - s - d - t - i - n - p - g - o - c - k - u - b - f -  
e - l - h - sh - r - j - v - y - w - th - z - ch - qu - x  
- ng - nk

### Speed Sounds Set 2

ay - ee - igh - ow - oo - oo - ar - or - air - ir - ou -  
oy

### Speed Sounds Set 3 (alternative graphemes)

a-e - ea - i-e - o-e - u-e - aw - are - ur - er - ow -  
ai - oa - ew - ire - ear - ure - tious - tion

## How can I support my child at home?

- Read as many stories to your child as you can. Talk about the stories. Explain the meaning of new words. Most importantly though, show the fun that can be gained by listening to stories.
- Read any reading books sent home. After your child has read a page, you can read it aloud again, to make sure that the story is enjoyed and understood. If your child gets stuck and is struggling to blend the sounds, say the sounds yourself, quickly, until your child can hear the word!
- When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds rather than the alphabet names of the letters: **ay bee see dee ee** . The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names. **eg. cat**, would sound like: **see ay tee**
- Play i-spy with your children and help them to identify the initial sounds in words.
- Practise letter formation with your child. Link the sound to the shape of the letter.
- When you're out and about point out writing in posters, signs, or leaflets. Keep reminding 'Do you remember when we were talking about the sound *ch...?*', or 'Oh look! There's a big *t* (sound) on that poster!'.
- Play audio tapes of songs, stories and rhymes.
- Practice 'Fred talk' with your child at home e.g.: please get ready for b-e-d; Can you put your c-oa-t on?

### **Oxford Owl**

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>

**Letters and Sounds** - Phonics resources published by the Department for Education .

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

**Phonics Play** - interactive phonics games.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

