

## Letters and Sounds

- We follow 'Letters and Sounds'
- The children will be taught actions with each learnt phoneme using 'Ruth Miskin' resources.

### Definitions

*Phoneme*: the smallest unit of sound in a word.

*Schwa*: the vowel sound in lightly pronounced unaccented syllables in words. (WE DO NOT WANT TO HEAR ANY SCHWAS!)

*Grapheme*: how a phoneme is written down.

*Digraph*: a combination of two letters making one phoneme, e.g. s -ee

*Trigraph*: a combination of three letters making one phoneme, e.g. h-igh

*Tricky word*: a word which cannot be decoded phonetically.

*High Frequency Words*: commonly used words that children are encouraged to memorize as a whole by sight, so that they can automatically recognize these words in print without having to use any strategies to decode.

*CVC*: consonant-vowel-consonant words.

*GPC*: grapheme/phoneme correspondence. Associating the sound with the letter.

*Segmenting*: breaking words up into individual phonemes. We segment phonemes to spell and write words.

*Blending*: putting phonemes together to make a word. We blend phonemes to read.

*Homophone*: a word that is pronounced the same as another word but differs in meaning, and may differ in spelling, e.g. the sun shone/ this is my son.

*Homograph*: a word that shares the same written form as another word but has a different meaning, e.g. the wind blew/ wind your watch.

## Strategies to use when encouraging children to read and write

- Robot arms
- Sound buttons
- Counting phonemes on fingers
- Use digraph/trigraph binoculars to spot digraphs/trigraphs within words, then blend.
- Phoneme frames

Phonics should be **fun**! Here are some useful websites for phonic games:

[www.mrthorne.com](http://www.mrthorne.com)

[http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop\\_v4.html](http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop_v4.html)

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase2Menu.htm](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase2Menu.htm)

[www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-games.html](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-games.html)

[www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=38](http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Interactive.aspx?cat=38)

Pronunciation of phonemes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LITw0oiLNys>

Ideas for supporting your child at home:

- Show your child that you are a reader and how much you love reading books, magazines etc.
- Show your child that reading has a purpose, e.g. recipes
- Show your child that writing has a purpose, e.g. shopping lists
- Show your child that you are a writer and how much you enjoy writing.
- If your child is not interested in reading their guided reading book with you at home please do not worry, they would have already read the book at least twice at school. Instead, you could enjoy one of the books you have at home. This promotes a love of reading and stories, and ensures these experiences remain positive for your child.
- **Children need constant positive praise and encouragement in order to succeed.**

If you have any queries at any point during the year, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the EYFS team.