

Letters and Sounds



Parents Guide

Overview

'Letters & Sounds' is the government programme for teaching phonics and high frequency words.

It is split into 6 phases with the different phases being covered in different years in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

- Phase 1– Nursery / Reception
- Phase 2– Reception
- Phase 3– Reception
- Phase 4– Reception / Year 1
- Phase 5– Year 1 / Year 2
- Phase 6– Year 2

This booklet will give you an idea of what is expected at each level.

Useful Websites

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex

Lots of free games for each phase, especially good for reading non-words. You can also subscribe to access more games.

- www.letters-and-sounds.com

Includes further information on each phase as well as printable resources and links to online games.

- www.ictgames.com/literacy

Wide range of games for sounds, words and rhyming.

- www.topmarks.co.uk

Search engine designed for schools where you can find a wide range of resources and activities with a phonics focus.

Next 200 Common Words cont...

miss	most	cold	park
lived	birds	duck	horse
rabbit	white	coming	he's
river	liked	giant	looks
use	along	plants	dragon
pulled	we're	fly	grow

All of these words and sounds form the basis of reading and writing and if they are known before the children go into key stage 2 then they will greatly benefit.

Phase 1

Phase 1 focuses on the basic skills needed for reading and writing and includes singing lots of nursery rhymes, playing listening games and using musical instruments.

Things to try at home:-

- Play games like 'I spy'
- Sing songs and rhymes together
- Make a 'junk band' with pots & pans
- Share lots of books together

Phase 2

By the end of phase 2, the children should know 24 sounds...

s a t p i n m d
g o c k ck e u r
h b f ff l ll ss le

and be able to read 5 tricky words...

the to l no go

They should be able to **orally blend** cvc words e.g. when you sound out c-a-t, they can tell you the word is cat, and also **orally segment** cvc words e.g. when you say mum, they can pick out the sounds m-u-m.

because	even	am	before
gran	clothes	tell	key
fun	place	mother	sat
boat	window	sleep	feet
morning	queen	each	book
its	green	different	let
girl	which	inside	run
any	under	hat	snow
air	trees	bad	tea
top	eyes	fell	friends
box	dark	grandad	there's
looking	end	than	best
better	hot	sun	across
gone	hard	floppy	really
wind	wish	eggs	once
please	thing	stopped	ever

Next 200 Common Words cont...

Phase 3

red	door	right	sea
these	began	boy	animals
never	next	first	work
lots	need	that's	baby
fish	gave	mouse	something
bed	may	still	found
live	say	soon	night
narrator	small	car	couldn't
three	head	king	town
I've	around	every	garden
fast	only	many	laughed
let's	much	sudden-	told
		ly	
another	great	why	cried
keep	room	last	jumped

Phase 3 builds on Phase 2 and the children learn 36 more sounds (including some where the same letters can make different sounds e.g. oo- book, loop)...

j v w x y z zz qu ch
sh th ng dg ve wh cks tch nk

ai ee igh oa oo oo ar or ur
ow oi ear air er er ue ue ure

he she we me be was
my you her they all are

and 12 more tricky words to read...

they should now, also, be able to spell the 5 tricky words from phase 2.

Phase 4

In Phase 4, 16 more new sounds are taught...

ay oy ea ie ow ew ew ou
ir aw eer are ce ea o ed

and 14 more tricky words are added too...

some come one said do so were
when have there out like little what

The children should now be able to write the Phase 3 words.

During Phase 4, sounds with adjacent consonants or initial & final **blends** are taught e.g. bl, dr, sc, ft, ct. These can be sounded out but recognising them quickly makes for a stronger reader.

Next 200 Common Words

water	away	good	want
over	how	did	man
going	where	would	or
took	school	think	home
who	didn't	ran	know
bear	can't	again	cat
long	things	new	after
wanted	eat	every-	our
		one	
two	has	yes	play
take	thought	dog	well
find	more	I'll	round
tree	magic	shouted	us
other	food	fox	through
way	been	stop	must

Phase 6

In Phase 6, the focus is on learning spelling rules for word endings or **suffix-es**.

They learn how words change when you add certain letters. There are 12 different suffixes taught...

-s	-es	-ing	-ed
-er	-est	-y	-en
-ful	-ly	-ment	-ness

The children are also expected to be able to read and write the 'next 200 common words'.

Phase 5

In Phase 5, the children learn split vowel diagraphs.

a_e e_e i_e o_e u_e

The e makes the vowel say its name e.g. came, Pete, rice, bone, cube,

They also learn 5 less common sounds...

They should be able to read words such

wh ph oe au ey

as crayon, mountain, thirsty and dolphin using their phonic knowledge.

They should also be able to read and write the 'first 100 high frequency words' (shown on next page)...

First 100 High Frequency Words

the	and	a	to
said	in	he	I
of	it	was	you
they	on	she	is
for	at	his	but
that	with	all	we
can	are	up	had
my	her	what	there
out	this	have	went
be	like	some	so
not	then	were	go
little	as	no	mum
one	them	do	me

down	dad	big	when
it's	see	looked	very
look	don't	come	will
into	back	from	children
him	Mr	get	just
now	came	oh	about
got	their	people	your
put	could	house	old
too	by	day	made
time	I'm	if	help
Mrs	called	here	off
asked	saw	make	an

By the end of Year 1, the children should be confidently reading all of these words and writing them accurately too.