



Early Years

How we teach reading

The Read Write Inc. Phonics programme

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible.

We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

How will my child be taught to read?

We start by teaching phonics to the children in the Foundation classes. This means that they learn how to 'read' the sounds in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well. We teach the children simple ways of remembering these sounds and letters. We start by teaching them just one way of reading and writing every sound. Here they are on the Simple Speed Sounds chart.

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng	nk
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Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

ay	ee	igh	ow
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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We teach Set 1 sounds first - (sounds as far as; a, e, i, o, u). To help your child remember their sounds, we say that some make a stretchy sound, and some make a bouncy sound. Stretchy sounds are said in one continuous sound, e.g., mmmmmmm as in mountain. Bouncy sounds are said with a short sharp gap in between, e.g., d-d-d as in d-d-d dinosaur. We then introduce them to special friends where 2 letters make one sound e.g. sh, ch, th.

We teach the sounds in a way to make them easy to blend into a word. It is important to teach pure sounds and we want to eliminate the 'uh' at the end of the sound e.g m, not muh, l, not luh. If you follow this link or scan the code, the video will explain in more detail.

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Zn9jQpDH/ud4NrHNr>



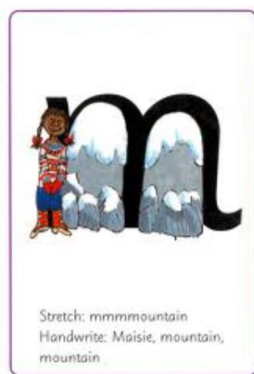
We start by teaching children a new sound every day in Foundation. This is the order we teach the sounds in. (You will have had a copy of the mat given to you during home visits).

Speed Sounds Set 1

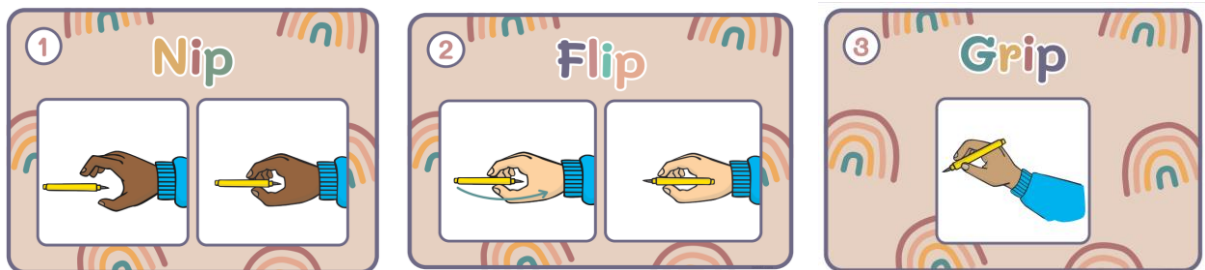
m m	a a	s s	d d	t t
i i	n n	p p	g g	o o
c c	k k	u u	b b	f f
e e	l l	h h	sh sh	r r
j j	v v	y y	w w	th th
z z	ch ch	qu qu	x x	ng nk

At the end of each week the children will come home with a set of sound cards to help them practice their sounds. They will also have a sheet with QR codes on so you can scan them and watch the videos together to help them practice their sounds.

As the children are learning to read the set 1 sounds, they will also learn to write them. For each sound there is a mnemonic phrase to help them write the letter e.g. for the letter 'm' we say 'Maisie, mountain, mountain' and for the letter 'a' we say 'around the apple and down the leaf', to help the children create a hook in their mind about how to write their letter.



We encourage the children to develop the correct pencil grip by using the mnemonic 'nip, grip and flip'. The diagrams show how to support your child with the correct pencil grip.



What can you do to help?

At the end of each week, your child will bring home a set of handwriting sheets, QR codes and a pack of sound cards. Use the cards to practice the sounds together by flashing them little and often to build their confidence. When the handwriting sheets come home, supervise your child when they are practicing their letter formation and prompt them to use the correct letter formation. Help them with remembering how to say the mnemonic as they write.

Remember to only refer to the sounds at this stage.

We know parents are very busy people but if you can find time to read to your child as much as possible, it helps them to learn about books and stories. They also learn new words and what they mean. Show that you are interested in reading yourself and talk about reading as a family. You can find out about good stories to read to your child here:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Fred Talk

In class we have a special frog called Fred. Fred helps the children learn to blend sounds into a word. We tell the children that Fred can only speak in sounds. So he would say d-o-g (for dog), h-a-t (for hat) etc. In school we show the children how Fred says the sounds c-a-t, and then we encourage children to help Fred to blend the sounds to say the word cat. This is how we quickly teach our children to blend orally. We practise blending orally so children will find word-reading easier. We play lots of Fred games and we will send a QR code to help practice each week.

My child has difficulty pronouncing some sounds. Will this stop him learning to read through phonics?

This isn't a problem for learning to read as long as we know what sound the child is trying to say. This is not something to worry about. Many children have a few sounds that they can hear clearly but find it difficult to say, particularly the l-sound, r-sound, w-sound, th-sound, s-sound, sh-sound and j-sound. Often they say a t-sound for the c-sound; "tttssh" for the s-sound; "w" for the r-sound and "r" for the l-sound. You can help your child by encouraging him or her to look at your mouth when you say the sound. They can easily learn to read, even if they find one or two sounds difficult to say.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns. We are here to help.

Thank you for your support.
The Foundation Team