

Progression of phonics through Letters and Sounds

Phase One (Nursery/Preschool)

Supports the importance of speaking and listening and develops children's discrimination of sounds, including letter sounds.

Phase Two (Reception)

The children learn to pronounce the sounds themselves in response to letters, before blending them. This leads to them being able to read simple words and captions.

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

Tricky Words: the, to, I, no, go

Phase Three (Reception)

Completes the teaching of the alphabet and moves on to sounds represented by more than one letter. The children will learn letter names and how to read and spell some tricky words.

Letters: j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

Tricky Words: he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, they, her, all, are

Phase Four (Reception)

The children learn to read and spell longer words containing adjacent consonants.

Tricky Words: said, so, have, like, some, come, were, there, little, one, do, when, out, what

Phase Five (Year 1 and recapped in year 2)

The children broaden their knowledge of sounds for use in reading and spelling. They will begin to build word-specific knowledge of the spellings of words.

Sounds: ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, ey, a_e, i_e, u_e, o_e

Tricky Words: oh, their, people, Mr, Mrs, looked, called, asked

Phase Six (Year 2)

This focuses more sharply on word-specific spellings. These include prefixes, suffixes and rules associated with these. It encourages children to become fluent readers and increasingly accurate spellers.

Key phonic skills used in reading:

- Recognising letters as single sounds, digraphs (2 letters making one sound) and trigraphs (3 letters making one sound)
- Blending sounds together to make a word
- Segmenting a word into the separate sounds to read it