

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
- Phase 6– Year 1 / Year 2

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

Phase 6

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

They learn how words change when you add certain letters.

For example..

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

When the children reach Phase 6 they will follow a school spelling scheme where they will be taught spelling rules to spell the words as listed in the National Curriculum. This scheme is taught from Years Two to Six.

Phase 1

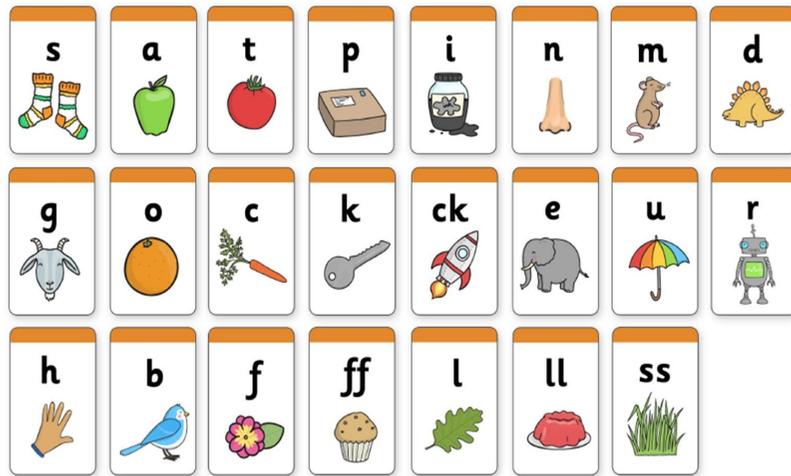
Phase One of Letters and Sounds concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

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

In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. Letters are taught in the following sequence:



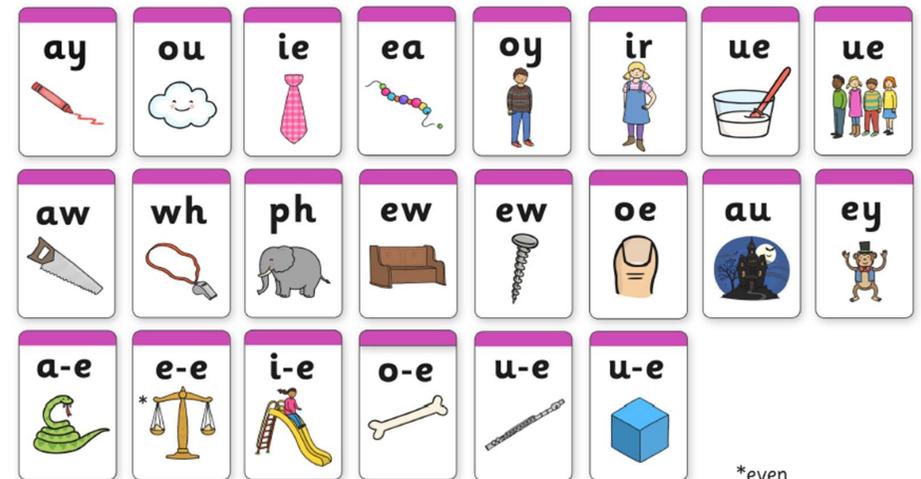
See [Spelling List handout](#) for a list of Tricky words children should be able to spell by the end of this phase.

Children will be encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words. For example, they will learn to blend the sounds s-a-t to make the word sat. They will also start learning to segment words. For example, they might be asked to find the letter sounds that make the word tap from a small selection of magnetic letters.

Phase 5

In Phase Five, children will learn more graphemes and phonemes. For example, they already know ai as in rain, but now they will be introduced to ay as in day and a-e as in make.

Alternative pronunciations for graphemes will also be introduced, e.g. ea in tea, head and break.



*even

See [Spelling List handout](#) for a list of Tricky words children should be able to spell by the end of this phase

Phase 4

When children start Phase Four of the Letters and Sounds phonics programme, they will know a grapheme for each of the 42 phonemes. They will be able to blend phonemes to read CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words and segment in order to spell them.

Children will also have begun reading straightforward two-syllable words and simple captions, as well as reading and spelling some tricky words.

In Phase 4, **no new graphemes are introduced**. The main aim of this phase is to consolidate the children's knowledge and to help them learn to read and spell words which have adjacent consonants, such as trap, string and milk.

See [Spelling List handout](#) for a list of Tricky words children should be able to spell by the end of this phase.

Phase 3

By the time they reach Phase 3, children will already be able to blend and segment words containing the letters taught in Phase 2.

During this phase new graphemes are introduced one at a time in the following sequence:



See [Spelling List handout](#) for a list of Tricky words children should be able to spell by the end of this phase.

During Phase 3, children will also learn the letter names using an alphabet song, although they will continue to use the sounds when decoding words.