



Letters and Sounds

Bushey Heath Primary School

Phonic guidance for parents



Teaching early reading

- 'Phonics' is how we teach reading to our children
- Our approach is 'Letters and Sounds'
- Daily phonics lessons
- Phase 1 to Phase 5 (today's workshop will be focusing on Phase 1 and 2)
- Supplemented by 'decodeable' reading books for reading books that go home with your child

What does phonics look like?

Phase 1

Early phonics teaching in pre-school, nursery and at the start of Reception focuses on developing children's listening skills.

Environmental sounds
Instrumental sounds
Body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping)
Rhythm and rhyme

Listening skills

Typical activities:

'listening' walks, playing and identifying instruments, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games like 'I Spy'.

What's in the box?



Listening walk



Phase 2

Children begin to learn the sounds that letters make(phonemes).

There are 44 sounds in all. Some are made with two letters, but in Phase 2, children focus on learning the 19 most common single letter sounds.

Example of two letter sounds: 'ch' for chip



Example of single letter sound: 'a' for apple



- In Reception we use 'Jolly Phonics' to support us introducing a new letter sound.
- Jolly Phonics uses a picture and action to tell a story.
- We find this useful for children to remember the sound and it makes it fun!

S s

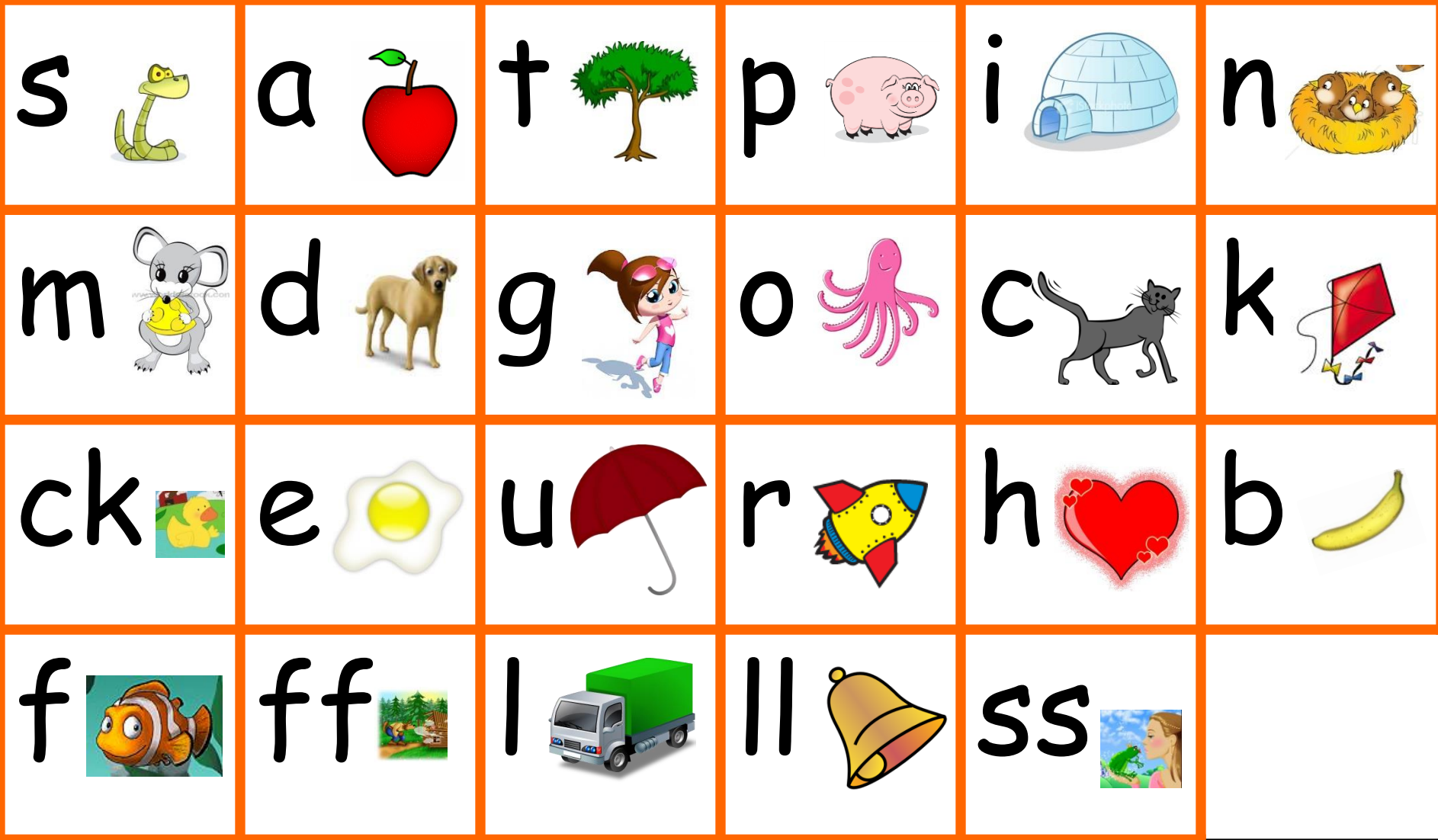


Action: Weave your hand in an 's' shape, like a snake, and say sssssss.

S *Tune: The Farmer in the Dell*

The snake is in the grass.
The snake is in the grass.
/sss/! /sss/!
The snake is in the grass.





Phonic sounds are taught in this order.

Each sound is a short sharp sound:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

Phase 2 activity:

We are Robots:

Blending words can be tricky therefore we have found if the children pretend to be robots it makes it fun and easier!

Example: c-a-t



"Can you s-i-t down?"



"Can you h-o-p?"



Phase 2 continued...

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Lots of games and activities to encourage children to sound out words and blend to read.

Tricky Words

- Some words cannot be 'sounded out'. We call these the tricky words.
- Phase 2: *the, to, I, no, go*
- Phase 3: *he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all, are*
- Phase 4: *some, one, said, come, do, so, were, when, have, there, out, like, little, what*
- The tricky words are sent home on the half termly newsletter

Resources to help you at home

- If you need help pronouncing the letter sounds please search for the following video on You Tube: *Jolly Phonics Letter Sounds (British English)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8>

- This video is fun for the children to share with you: *Jolly phonics songs in the correct order*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCjJYB07aSU>

- Please visit www.mrthorne.com/ for his helpful phonics website.

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Reading at Bushey Heath

- Newsletter: half termly to inform you of the phonics being taught
- Daily Phonics lessons
- Individual reading once a week
- Every day -Reading at home - using the school reading scheme. Flashcards to accompany this.
- Please bring your book bag every day
- Enjoy watching your child learn how to become a confident and happy reader!

How you can help at home

- Regular reading of the school reading book - just **five minutes every day** - little and often
- Learn the **sounds** and their **letter names** - sound book and flashcards
- Share and listen to other stories throughout the week, value and **enjoy** reading
- Praise, encourage ,be patient and watch your child start to read