

# Phonics Glossary of Terms

The way children are taught to read, write and spell in school today is called phonics. This guide tells you about some of the terms you may hear teachers use when talking about phonics. There are also some top tips to help your child with phonics at home.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Blending     | Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or 'blending' the sounds together to say the word.<br>E.g. c-a-t, <b>blended</b> together, reads cat. |
| Digraph      | Two letters which together make one sound. There are different types of digraph - vowel and consonant, e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay.   |
| CVC words    | Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. E.g. top, pen, chat (ch makes one sound).                                  |
| Grapheme     | Written letters or a group of letters which represent one sound, e.g. a, l, sh, ck, air.  |
| Phoneme      | A single sound that can be made by one or more letters - e.g. s, k, z, oo, ph, igh.   |
| Pure Sound   | Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh'.  |
| Segmenting   | This is the opposite of blending. Splitting a word up into individual sounds - used when spelling and writing.  |
| Tricky words | Words that are difficult to sound out, e.g. the, my, said.  |
| Trigraph     | Three letters which go together to make one sound, e.g. ear, air, igh.  |

# How to help your child learn to read

Phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (how it looks) are now taught in a special order and are split into groups called phases. Please support your child with learning how to read and write the sounds each week in their Phonics Homework book.

What differs now from when most of us were children is the very short sounds that letters make. When the sounds are short, it is much easier to blend the letters (which means putting the sounds together to make words).

There is also a list of tricky words to learn with special actions that do not follow the normal pronunciation of other words.

Here is the order in which the letters are taught and the phases:

## Phase 1

- 1) Tuning into sounds
- 2) Listening and remembering sounds
- 3) Talking about sounds (so basically being aware that words are made of graphemes and phonemes)

## Phase 2

Learning which letter makes which sound

Unit 1: s a t p

Unit 2: i n m d

Unit 3: g o c k

Unit 4: ck e u r

Unit 5: h b f, ff l, ll ss

## Phase 3

Unit 6: j v w x

Unit 7: y z zz qu

Unit 8: ch, sh th ng

Unit 9: ai ee igh oa oo

Unit 10: ar or ur ow oi

Unit 11: ear air er

## Phase 4

No new graphemes.

Practising all the graphemes and blending them together to make longer words.