

Foundation Stage Phonics Guidance for Parents and Carers

This information booklet will explain the phonics teaching that happens in foundation, of which your child will be a part of every day.

Included is information about what phonics is and some of the vocabulary your children will start to be learning and repeating probably at home. It also includes information about how you can support your child at home.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to talk to us at any time. If you would like to book an appointment you can write a note in your child's reading liaison book and we will write back to you.

Thank you for your continued support,

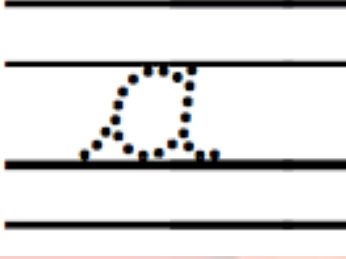
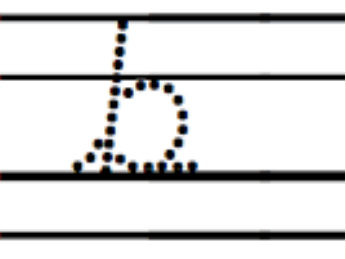
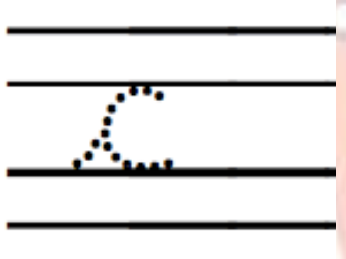
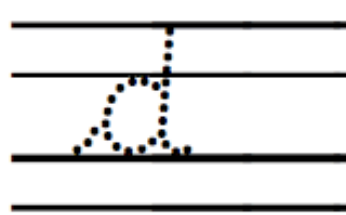
Miss Yorke and Miss Heaton

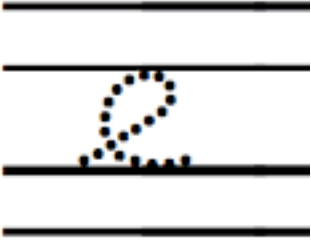
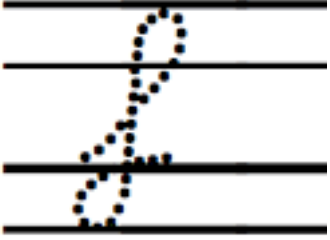
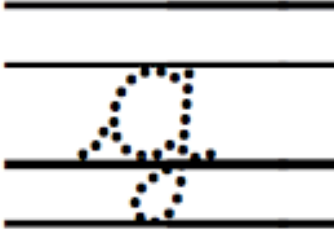
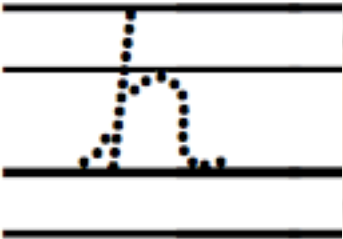
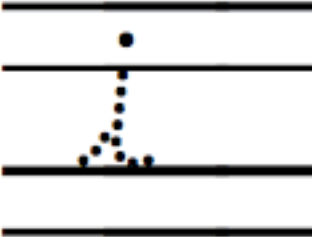
The information written in this booklet has been gathered from a variety of sources, including:



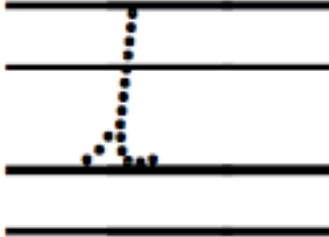
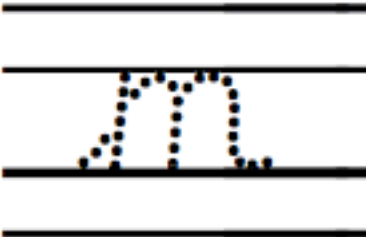
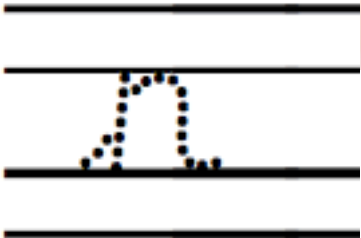
- <http://www.twinkl.co.uk>
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>
- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>
- <http://jolly2.s3.amazonaws.com/Catalogues%20and%20Guide/Parent%20Teacher%20Guide.pdf>
- <http://phonicbooks.wordpress.com/2011/01/17/what-is-a-phoneme/>
- <http://www.communication4all.co.uk/Phonics/A4%2044%20Phoneme%20chart.pdf>
- <http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Cursive-Handwriting-Booklet-6390251/>
- <http://www.tes.co.uk/ResourceDetail.aspx?storyCode=3003266>




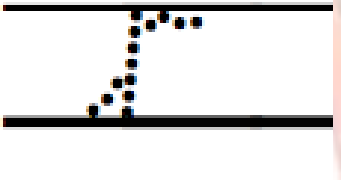

We start cursive handwriting straight away in foundation and we use phrases to help the children remember the formation of each letter. We always begin each letter on the line (as shown below) and finish each letter with a flick.



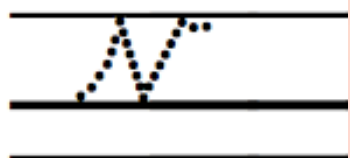
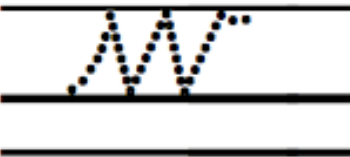
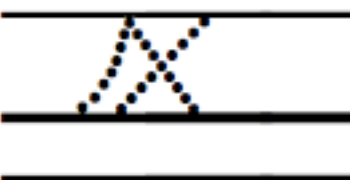

Here is a list of the phrases we will be using:

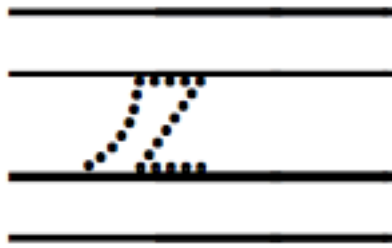
	<p>Up and over the apple, back around and down the leaf.</p>
	<p>Up the bat and back down and over and around the ball.</p>
	<p>Up to the top and around the cat's tail.</p>
	<p>Up and over the dinosaurs bottom and back around and up his long neck, back down his feet.</p>

	<p>Up and around the egg.</p>
	<p>Up and around the flower, down the stem and up the leaf.</p>
	<p>Up and back around the girls face and down around her curly plait.</p>
	<p>Up the hill and back down, up and over the small hill.</p>
	<p>Up and down the insects body, dot for his head.</p>

	<p>Up jumping jack and back down and around his leg, dot for his head.</p>
	<p>Up and down the kangaroo's body, around his head and down his tail</p>
	<p>Up the wire and down the lamp.</p>
	<p>Maisie, mountain, mountain.</p>
	<p>Up and down noisy Nick and up over his net.</p>

	<p>Up to the top and back around the orange.</p>
	<p>Up and down the pirate's plait, back up and around his face.</p>
	<p>Up and around the queen's face, down her long gown and flick for her train.</p>
	<p>Up and down the robot's body, back up and over his arm.</p>
	<p>Up to the snakes head and slither down the snake.</p>

	<p>Up and down the tower (pencil off) across the tower.</p>
	<p>Up to the top, back down, slide under, back up and down with a flick.</p>
	<p>Up to the top, down the vase, up the vase.</p>
	<p>Up to the top, down the well, up the well, down the well, up the well.</p>
	<p>Up to the top and criss-cross.</p>
	<p>Up and down, around the Yoyo, down and around the string.</p>



Up to the top and zig-zag-zig.

Phonics Glossary

	Definition
What is a phoneme?	<p>A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in speech. When we teach reading we teach children which letters represent those sounds. For example - the word 'hat' has 3 phonemes - 'h' 'a' and 't'.</p> <p>More information on next page.</p>
What is a grapheme?	<p>A grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent the sounds in our speech. So a grapheme will be the letter/ letters that represent a phoneme (see above). English has a complex written code and in our code a grapheme can be 1, 2,3 or 4 letters. For example:</p> <p>1 letter grapheme - m a t (m)</p> <p>2 letter grapheme - sh i p (sh)</p> <p>3 letter grapheme - n igh t (igh)</p> <p>4 letter grapheme - eigh t (eigh)</p>
What is a digraph and a trigraph?	<p>A digraph is a 2 letter grapheme (the clue is in 'di') e.g. 'ch' in 'chip'</p> <p>A trigraph is a 3 letter grapheme (the clue is in 'tri') e.g. 'igh' in 'high'</p>
What are adjacent consonants?	<p>Adjacent consonants are 2 or more consonants that are next to each other in a word. For</p>

	example in the word 'lost' the 's' and 't' are adjacent consonants. Or in the word 'clip' the 'c' and 'l' are adjacent consonants. It important to remember that each consonant is a separate sound so 'cl' for example is 2 sounds 'c' and 'l'.
Why is it important to teach adjacent consonants?	Many children find it difficulty to blend 2 or 3 consonants when they appear next to each other in a word. This is a skill that can be mastered and children may need lots of practice to achieve this.
What are consonant and vowel digraphs?	<p>Consonant digraphs are 2 letters that are consonants that spell 1 sound e.g.: 's' and 'h' together spell 'sh'. As this is 1 sound, it cannot be called 2 adjacent consonants.</p> <p>Vowel digraphs or trigraphs are vowel sounds spelled by more than 1 letter e.g: 'oo' or 'ai' or 'igh'</p>
What is 'blending'?	Blending is the process of pushing sounds together in a word. Children are taught to sound out words and then push the sounds together into a recognisable word.
What is segmenting?	Segmenting is the process of separating sounds in words. Children a taught to listen and isolate sounds in words. Then they are taught to represent those sounds in letters. This is the process of spelling.
What are high-frequency words?	High frequency words are common words the beginner reader will come across very early in his/her reading experience as they appear in even the simplest of texts. The list of the first 100 high-frequency words includes words which are decodable e.g. 'dad' and words which are not initially decodable such as 'the' and 'where'.

Here are some links for free tutorials from Phonic Books which may make the definitions a little clearer:

'What is a phoneme?' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwFvD5Cv9n8>

'What is a grapheme?' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsWtyKqPHko>














































'Synthetic Phonics tutorial' <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IG24BoekBGY>

To see the range of decodable books that we publish with step-by-step phonic progression visit: <http://www.phonicbooks.co.uk/completerange.php>



It is generally agreed that there are approximately 44 sounds in English, with some variation dependent on accent and articulation. The 44 English phonemes are represented by the 26 letters of the alphabet individually and in combination.

Here is a table to show the 44 phonemes...

s 	t 	p 	n 	m 	a 	e 	i 	o 
g 	d 	ck 	r 	h 	u 	ai 	ee 	igh 
b 	f 	l 	j 	v 	oa 	oo 	oo 	ar 
w 	x 	y 	z 	qu 	or 	ur 	ow 	oi 
ch 	sh 	th 	th 	ng 	ear 	air 	ure 	er 

Resources for home use:

- www.twinkl.co.uk Twinkl has lots of fantastic free resources, which you can download and print.
- <http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storyCode=6012398> TES has lots of phonics games that you can print at home and you can register for free.
- <http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/englishA1.htm> Primary Resources has information about phonics, as well as worksheets and games that you can download and print.

Internet:

The Internet is a fantastic resource for gaining more information about phonics and the different stages. It is also a great resource for helping you with supporting your child's development in phonics.

- www.mrthorne.com is brilliant for helping parents and carers understand the pronunciation and development of phonics (We teachers use this too!!! ☺). It is fantastic for videos and links apps, which can help yourself and your children in the early and later stages of phonics, as this will continue throughout the school.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/alphablocks/> is great for all aspects of school life including songs, stories and creative making ideas.

Lots of interactive games can be found at:

- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>
Phonics play has lots of free interactive games that you can play with your child and they can play independently. When you open a game you can then choose the phase your child is on. Each game comes with teaching ideas to explain how to use the game. 'Buried treasure' is a good game for practicing the blending of words for reading; where the children have to separate the real and "fake" words.
- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>
This website has lots of interactive games, as well as an introduction to each phase of phonics and resources that are free to download!
- <http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html> has lots more exciting interactive games.