



**Great Bradfords**  
INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL

# Phonics Guide

We base our phonics teaching on the *Letters and Sounds* programme. It is split into 6 phases, which are covered during Early Years and KS1.

This booklet is to give you an idea of what is expected at each level and suggest games and activities to support your child in becoming a competent and enthusiastic reader.

## **Getting Started**

Sharing books - Remember that we teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus, etc). You don't have to read all the words each time. Remember to use silly voices, make sound effects, pull faces, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you think and feel and have fun!

### **General tips to support reading**

*Once is never enough!* - Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their school reading books. Re-reading helps your child's accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

*Dig deeper into the story* - Ask your child to retell/summarise what they've just read. Ask who/what/why/how/where/when text based questions.

*Be patient* - When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind them to look closely at the initial sound.

*I read to you, you read to me* - Take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.

*One more time with feeling* - When your child has sounded out an unfamiliar word, have him or her re-read that sentence. Often children are so busy blending a word they can lose the meaning of it.

*Take control of the television* - It can be difficult for reading to compete with TV, tablets and video games. Establish the expectation that reading is a distraction free activity. That means turn off your mobile phone too, so that you're not distracted!

## **Terminology**

The 26 letters of the alphabet and combinations of these letters make 44 sounds (phonemes).

Vowel - a, e, i, o, u

Consonant - the remaining 21 letters of the alphabet

Phoneme - the smallest unit of sound found within a word e.g. c, ng, ai

Grapheme - the spelling/writing of a sound

Blending - putting sounds together to read a word

Segmenting - breaking up a word into its sounds to read or write

Digraph - two letters that form one sound e.g. ff, th, er

Trigraph - three letters that form one sound e.g. igh, ure, ear

Split digraph - two letters which make one sound and is split by a consonant e.g. a\_e, o\_e

### Phase 1

Phase 1 focuses on the basic skills required for reading and writing and includes singing lots of nursery rhymes, playing listening games and using musical instruments.

#### Things to try at home

- / spy e.g. a c-u-p
- Sing songs and rhymes together
- Make a junk band with pots and pans
- Share lots of books together
- Hide toys and give the initial sound of the toy to be found
- *Simon says*... e.g. touch your ch-i-n
- Go on a sound walk and discuss the volume and length of the sounds
- Get your child to create sound effects to accompany a story
- Make up something alliterative to describe your child's toys (it doesn't need to make sense) e.g. Lion likes to lick lollies, Hippo huddles me with his hairy head, etc.

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### Phase 2

By the end of phase 2, a child should know the following phonemes which are taught in the following order...

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

and be able to read the following tricky words, which can't be sounded out and need to be learnt by sight...

the to l no go

They should be able to orally blend CVC words e.g. when you sound out c-a-t, they tell you the word is cat, and orally segment CVC words e.g. when you say 'ship', they can pick out the sounds sh-i-p.

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### Phase 3

Phase 3 builds upon phase 2 and the children learn 26 more phonemes (including some where the same letters make different sounds e.g. oo - book, loop).

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

And 12 more tricky words to learn...

he she we me be was my you  
her they all are

#### Phase 4

Phase 4 is a consolidation of all the phonemes learnt so far. As part of this phase children learn how to blend and segment words with adjacent consonants e.g. CVCC, CCVC, CVCCC.

Also 14 new tricky words are learnt...

some come one said do so were when  
have there out like little what

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#### Phase 5

In phase 5, there is a focus upon alternative sounds.

ay oy wh ou ir ph ie ue ew ea aw oe  
au

The children also learn 5 new sounds all with split digraphs. When the digraph is split, the vowel sound changes from letter sound to letter name e.g. game, time.

a\_e e\_e i\_e o\_e u\_e

They should be able to read words such as crayon, mountain, thirsty and dolphin using their phonic knowledge. By the end of phase 5 they should also be able to read all their key words.

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#### Phase 6

In phase 6, the focus is on learning spelling rules and looking at spelling patterns mainly for suffixes. They learn how words change when you add certain letters. There are 12 different suffixes taught...

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

Expectations have moved on and the requirement now is for children to spell all of their key words.

### **Things to try at home (for Phases 2 onwards)**

- Point out words everywhere e.g. menus, bus stops, shops, etc...
- Phoneme hunt - spot phonemes in reading books, foods in cupboards/at the supermarket, advertisements, etc...
- Add sound buttons to words
- Play online phonics games (see websites)

### **Websites**

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/alphablocks/>

<http://www.mrthornenetwork.com/phonics>

<http://www.nickjr.co.uk/wallykazam/>