

# Reading and Phonics in Reception





# Ready to read



- Children learn about how language works and develop their vocabulary by talking with their parents.
- They learn about stories and books when people read to them.
- Children's first reading experiences will often consist of joining in with nursery rhymes and the repetitive phrases in well known stories.



# Starting to read



To cope with reading unfamiliar stories, children must also learn:

- The sounds that match each letter shape
- The letter names that match each letter shape
- Sounds made by common combinations of letters, e.g. sh, ch, th, qu
- That patterns of sounds can be reflected in patterns of letters, e.g. at, cat, sat, mat
- That common or 'tricky words' that must be recognised as wholes and not sounded out e.g. was, the, look
- That reading involves combining many skills, in the way that suits their brain best!

# Using phonics to read

- The first thing to remember is that phonics doesn't always work!
- We teach 44 sounds that letters or combinations of letters make. These are called phonemes.
- These help us to sound words out that are phonetically correct using sound buttons eg,

c a t

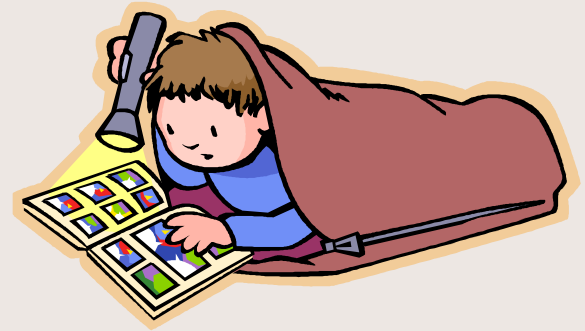
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# When phonics does not work!

Some words cannot be sounded out.  
We call these words 'tricky words.'  
For example: said

was  
the  
to  
we



Tricky words just have to be learnt!

# What now?

- Play sound and listening games with your child eg, I spy, listening to story and rhyme CD's.
- Tell the story through the pictures before you even attempt to decode
- Be a detective and look for clues!  
Look for initial sounds in words  
Does the sentence that you have read make sense?  
Use your sight vocabulary.  
Use your phonics to blend words you are unsure of.
- Reading for 10 minutes each day is more productive than 4 hours at the weekend!





# Comprehension

Reading is about more than  
decoding the text!

What?

Where?

Who?

Why?

When?





# How can I help?

- Enjoy reading to and with your child.
- Let your child see you reading
- Take your child to the library and choose books for both of you
- Good readers are children who are read to even if only for a few minutes at bedtime
- Vary your child's reading material, don't just read school books - comics, newspapers, magazines, cookery books etc.





# And remember...

- This is just the beginning of a long journey
- Learning to read is not a race and each child will learn at their own pace
- If you feel stressed when reading with your child they will sense it and it will make them tense. This is not conducive to good learning. If there is nobody else available to take over, put it away, take a break and come back to it later
- Reading should be fun!

# Today's task



- See how many words you can make from the letters in your cup.
- Make a list of the words.
- Remember to use phonics!
- Hand in your named list and select a literacy game with your child.

