



Phonics Workshop

Information for Parents/Carers

Ridgeway Infant School

Miss Michelle Bailey

mbailey@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk



Workshop Aims...

- To understand the key words related to the way phonics is taught
- To know some of the ways your children learn early reading and writing skills at school.
- To know ways that you can help your child at home.

Why is Phonics so Important?

- Reading consists of two main elements:

Decoding – reading

Comprehension - understanding

- Good phonic knowledge and skill is the fastest way to secure early reading and writing skill
- Children must learn to read before they can read to learn.

Phonics Key Words

- **Phoneme** – a sound
- **Grapheme** – the letters used to write a sound.
- **Digraph** – 1 sound that is written using 2 letters, ‘special friends’,
e.g. **sh, ay**
- **Trigraph** – 1 sound that is written using 3 letters, ‘special friends’,
e.g. **igh, dge**
- **Letter Name** – such as when you recite the alphabet. Used when describing how to spell a word once children have learned more than one way to spell a sound.

Phonic Knowledge

- Pronounce sounds purely.
- No letter names at this stage.
- Watch a video about pure sounds [here](#).

Now let's practise!

Phonic Knowledge

Simple Speed Sounds chart

Consonants: stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

Consonants: bouncy

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

Vowels: bouncy

Vowels: stretchy

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
---	---	---	---	---	----	----	-----	----

Vowels: stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
----	----	----	----	-----	----	----	----

Phonic Knowledge

ay	igh
play eight cake straight	right pie kite fly

44 Phonemes

b	d	f ff ph	g	h	j dge	k c ck	l ll	m mb	n kn gn	ng
p	r wr	s ss st se	t	v	w wh	y	z se	th	th	ch ture tch
zh s si ge	a	e	i y ey	o	u oo oul o_e	oo	ai ay a_e	er	igh ie i_e y	oa oe o_e ow
sh ch s ti ci	oo ue ew u_e	ar al	ur ir ear or	or aw au al our augh	ee ea ey e_e ie y	ow ou	oi oy	air ere ear are	ear ere eer	ure

Phonic Knowledge

- We teach children at least one way to write every sound in the foundation stage. (simple code)
- In Year 1, children are learning to recognise and use alternative phonemes to spell words, such as sleep, leap. They also learn that some graphemes have alternative pronunciations, such as pick, find. Children start to learn which grapheme is the 'best bet' to spell the word they need. (complex code)
- In Year 2, we teach the children about trickier phonemes such as cious and tion. We also begin to cover spelling rules e.g. adding suffixes such as ed or ly. Children learn skills to read and spell longer words based on an understanding of tense and grammar.

Phonic Skills

- Blending

Blending is a key skill for **reading**. We teach the children to say aloud each phoneme in the word and merge the phonemes together smoothly and in order to read the word.

e.g. c-a-t = cat

or a-g-ai-n = again

In longer words, children are taught to split the word up into smaller parts and to blend each part.

Phonic Skills

- How do we teach blending at school?

‘Green’ words

Fred Talk – Have a go!

Sound buttons

Special friends

- How can you practise blending at home?

‘I spy a c-u-p.’

Finish sentences with sound or robot talk- ‘Where’s your other s-o-ck?’

‘Simon says – touch your ch-i-n.’

Push a penny under the sounds

Push cards together

Phonic Skills

- Segmenting

Segmenting is a key skill for **spelling**. The whole word is spoken aloud, then broken up into its separate sounds (phonemes) in order, all through the word.

e.g. cat = c-a-t

or again = a-g-ai-n

In this way, the children can hear each of the phonemes. They then write down the correct grapheme for each phoneme.

Phonic Skills

- How do we teach segmenting at school?

Fred Fingers – Who is Fred?!

Words with more than one syllable – nonsense words

Phoneme frames – Have a go!

- How can you practise segmenting at home?
- Encourage your child to use Fred fingers whenever they write
- Talk like a robot
- Play games on websites like:

www.bbc.co.uk - words and pictures

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.ictgames.co.uk

Red Words

There are around 100 words that are commonly used in early reading and writing. Many of them can be blended using the skills learned. However, some of them can not be, and these are called 'red' words.

Why do we call them 'red' words?

Because children need to **stop** and think before reading.

Depending on how many phonemes children have learned, they may not be able to blend the word to read them. E.g. **my be**

Red Words

- How do we teach red words at school?

Point out the tricky bits

Grotty graphemes

Fred Rhythms e.g. **want**

- How can you practise red words at home?

Play games like snap and pairs so that red words become embedded in their sight vocabulary.

Stages 1-6 reading book tricky words.

Spot tricky words in their reading book.

Display words around your house.

Practise little and often!

How is Phonics Taught at Ridgeway?

At Ridgeway we use a scheme called Read, Write, Inc Phonics.



Mrs Harford-Smyth and I read with every child in school every 6 weeks to assess their progress and ensure they are grouped correctly.

When the children are secure with all of their sounds they move on to learning higher level reading comprehension and writing skills, and look at spelling rules within lessons.

The RWI website has lots of really useful videos for you to watch. Click [here](#) to take you to the parents video section.

How is Phonics Taught at Ridgeway?

- Next term we would like to invite you to come into school to watch your child's phonics lesson.
- This will be on a given date so that we can try and fit everyone in the classrooms.
- If you are unable to come, there is more information on the RWI website [here](#).

Any questions?

- Please ask your class teacher about any aspect of your child's phonic learning.
- Email me or your child's class teacher anytime!
- Please complete a feedback sheet before you go. Thank you 😊