

Phonics at Mount Charles



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What is Phonics?

A systematic approach to teach children to read and write.

At Mount Charles School we use a scheme called Read Write Inc.



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Why do we teach Phonics?

To help children become good readers and writers.

- Phonics allows children to explore letters and their sounds.
- It helps produce early readers and writers.
- It is taught at a fast pace making the sessions quick but also productive.
- It provides children with an understanding of:
 - letter names to help with spelling tricky words
 - sounds to spell words on their own
 - letter formation actions/rhymes to leading to joined handwriting
 - common places to find different sounds within words
 - SPAG elements (spelling and grammar)

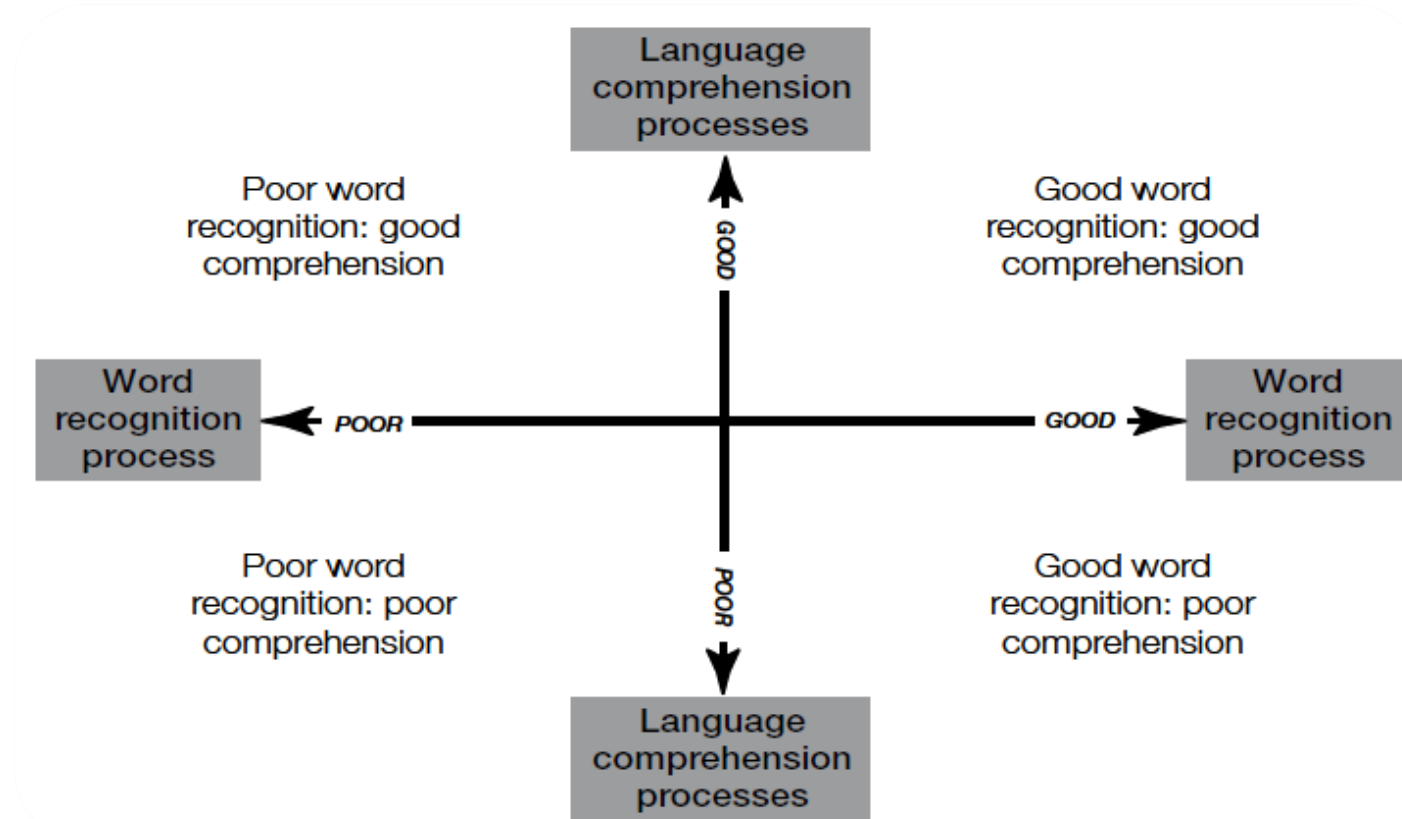


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Why do we teach Phonics?



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Terminology

phoneme: the sound the letters make

grapheme: what the letters look like on the page

special friends: sounds made from more than one letter (digraphs/trigraphs etc.)

chatty special friends: a two letter sound with a split in the middle as they are too chatty (split-digraph)

Fred talk: to break the word down into sounds (segment)

read the word: to push the sounds together to make a word (blend)



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How do we teach Phonics?

RWI

We teach children sounds using picture phrases to help them remember.

For example, ay, may I play? aw, yawn at dawn.

Many sounds have two or more letters making one sound. We call these 'Special Friends'.

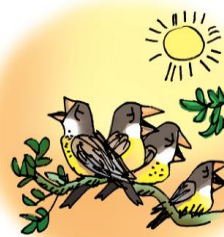
ay



may I play?

2. day, play, may, way, lay, say, tray, spray

aw



yawn at dawn

3. saw, raw, law, straw, dawn, paw,
crawl, jaw, claw, yawn



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How do we teach Phonics?

We teach children to read both real and nonsense words using the routine 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', 'Read the Word'.

Children spot the 'Special Friends' (two letters that make one sound), Fred talk the word, and then read the word as a whole.



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How do we teach Phonics?

Half of the words in the Phonics Screening are real words. Half are nonsense words. For example, 'sheb', 'glight', 'ched', 'teb'.

There is a picture of an alien next to each word to remind the children that it isn't a real word.

Nonsense words check that children will be able to read sounds they know in unfamiliar words. Children who can read nonsense words will, very soon, be able to read any new word



sheb



glight



ched



teb



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Why is it tricky?

There are **44 sounds** in the English language.

These need to be made with only **26 letters**. As a result letters are combined to create new sounds.

These are called 'special friends' (digraphs/trigraphs etc.)

Each sound is written down in more than one way, for example: the speech sound 'ay' is spelt ay, ai, a_e, aigh, eigh, eig and ei. Initially children learn one representation so will spell phonetically. Gradually alternatives will be introduced.

The boy had to boil the veg.



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Progression

Speed Sounds Set 1

m	a	s	d	t
i	n	p	g	o
c	k	u	b	f
e	l	h	sh	r
j	v	y	w	th
z	ch	qu	x	ng

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay	ee	igh	ow	oo
oo	ar	or	air	ir
ou	oy			

Speed Sounds Set 3

ea	oi			
ā-e	ī-e	ō-e	ū-e	aw
are	ur	er	ow	ai
oa	ew	ire	ear	ure

Simple Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds - strictly														
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng	nk			
Consonant sounds - loosely														
b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch		
Vowel sounds - loosely														
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow						
Vowel sounds - strictly														
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy							

Complex Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds														
f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng				
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk				
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci						
Vowel sounds														
a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow						
	ea				ā-e	y	ī-e	ō-e						
					ai	ea	ie	oa						
						e	i	o						

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
ū-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							



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What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a national word reading test that all Year 1s undertake in June.

In December 2018, research found that nearly 90% of children who passed the phonics check taken in Year 1 reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading in Year 6.

Children read 40 words.

It takes between two and five minutes.

If they do not manage to read **32** of the words, they are given extra support, and repeat the check at the end of Year 2.



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How can you help at home?

- Use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', 'Read the Word' to read words
- Practise reading sounds speedily - 'review, review, review'
- Listen to your child read their Storybook every day

Ruth Miskin Parents' Page:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>



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How can you help at home?

- Make a special place to keep reading books. It will show how important reading is to you.
- Look at brochures, catalogues and newspapers together and point out more unusual words.
- Make a word box and put in new words your child has learnt. Revisit high-frequency words.
- Let your child see you reading and talk about what you like and don't like reading.



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How can you help at home?

There is strong research evidence showing the positive difference it makes when parents and family members get involved in a child's education and that parental involvement in encouraging reading is key.

The Literacy Trust



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Key Messages

- Try not to add a 'uh' to the end of sounds. Keep sounds clear.
- Tricky words cannot be sounded out completely. These simply need to be practised until the children know them well. You can discuss the tricky bit within the word. (within so the 'o' makes an 'oa')
- Some children may be reluctant readers. If this is the case read a page each, keep reading sessions short but productive and choose a time of day to read that suits you and your family.
- Don't do all the work. Remind the children to use their Fred talk and to have a go.
- It is not a competition about what colour book band your child is on or who knows their digraphs/split digraphs or not.
- **Remember,; 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', and 'Read the Word'.**



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