

Before your son/ daughter can start to read independently, he or she needs to learn to:

- say the sound that is represented by each letter or groups of letters. These are **Speed Sounds**
- sound out the word, e.g. c-a-t, sh-o-p, s-t-r-ee-t. This is **sound blending**

What are Speed Sounds?

In Read Write Inc Phonics the individual sounds are called 'speed sounds' - because we want your son/daughter to read them effortlessly.

What are Speed Sounds Set 1, Set 2 and Set 3?

Set 1:

In *Primary 1* your son/daughter learnt the sounds below by sight.

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, nk

They also learnt how to *blend* them together to read words

e.g. c-a-t → cat.

Set 2(The long vowel sounds):

Your son/daughter will then progress to learning their Set 2 sounds.

There are 12 Set 2 'speed sounds' that are made up of two or three letters which represent just one sound, e.g. ay as in play, ee as in tree and igh as in high.

It is important that your son/daughter does not pronounce these as 2 or 3 separate sounds.

When your son/daughter sees the 'speed sound' letters together in a word, s/he must say just one sound for these letters.

These are called '**special friends**'.

When your son/daughter learns their Set 2 sounds in school they will learn:

- the letters that represent a speed sound e.g. ay
- a simple picture prompt linked to the 'speed sound' and a short phrase to say e.g. may I play

Every speed sound has a list of green words linked to it, so your son/daughter can '*sound out*' (this is FRED-talk) and '*sound blend*' words containing the new speed sound they have just learnt, for example s-p-r-ay → spray.

Below are the Set 2 sounds and the phrase they learn to associate it with:

ay: may I play
ee: what can you see
igh: fly high
ow: blow the snow
oo: poo at the zoo
ar: start the car
or: shut the door
air: that's not fair
ir: whirl and twirl
ou: shout it out
oy: toy for a boy

Set 3

To date, your son/daughter will have learnt one way in which each long vowel sound is written (Set 2 sounds).

When learning their Set 3 speed sounds they will be taught that there are more ways in which the same sounds are written, e.g. ee as in tree and ea as in tea.

Set 3 speed sounds reading will be taught first, followed by Set 3 'speed sounds' spelling.

It takes some time for this information to be fully understood by your son/daughter.

There are 20 Set 3 'speed sounds' that are made up of two or three letters which represent just one sound, e.g. ea as in tea, ow as in cow and are as in care. As before, it is important that your son/daughter does not pronounce these as 2 or 3 separate sounds. When your son/daughter sees the 'speed sound' letters together in a word, s/he must say just one sound for these letters.

When your son/daughter learns their Set 3 sounds in school they will learn:

- the letters that represent a speed sounds e.g. ea
- a simple picture prompt linked to the 'speed sound' and a short phrase to say e.g. cup of tea

Every speed sound has a list of green words linked to it, so your son/daughter can 'sound out' and 'sound blend' words containing the new speed sound they have just learnt, for example s-p-oil →spoil.

Below are the Set 3 sounds and the phrase they learn to associate it with:

ea: cup of tea
oi: spoil the boy
a-e: make a cake
i-e: nice smile
o-e: phone home
u-e: huge brute
aw: yawn at dawn
are: share and care
ur: purse for a nurse
er: a better letter
ow: brown cow
ai: snail in the rain
oa: goat in a boat
ew: chew the stew
ire: fire fire!
ear: hear with your ear
ure: sure it's pure?
tion: (celebration)
tious / cious: (scrumptious / delicious)
e: he me we she be

It is important that the speed sounds are practised in the correct order as they will be taught the sounds in order of the frequency with which they will come across them when reading. The table above shows you, at a glance, the order of the sounds.

What are green words?

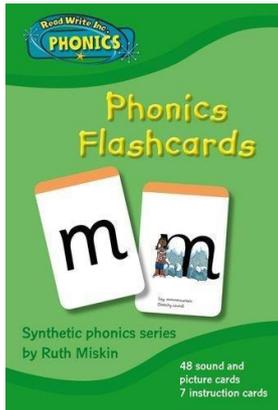
'Green words' are words which your son/daughter will be able to 'go ahead' and Fred talk to read.

Vowel sound: written as...	Set 2 Speed Sound Rhyme	Green words
ay	ay: may I play	day play say may tray today
ee	ee: what can you see?	seen need sleep feel three green
igh	igh: fly high	might light sight night fright
ow	ow: blow the snow	snow flow know show blow
oo	oo: poo at the zoo	mood fool pool stool moon spoon
ar	ar: start the car	bar park smart sharp car spark
or	or: shut the door	sort short worn horse sport fork
air	air: that's not fair	fair stair hair lair chair
ir	ir: whirl and twirl	girl third whirl twirl dirt
ou	ou: shout it out	mouth round found loud shout
oy	oy: toy for a boy	toy boy enjoy
	<p>Set 3 Speed Sound Rhyme</p> <p><i>Please do not practice all these words until your son/daughter knows all their Set 2 sounds.</i></p>	
a-e	a-e: make a cake	shake name same save brave late
ea	ea: cup of tea	neat real clean please dream
i-e	i-e: nice smile	hide shine white nice wide like
o-e	o-e: phone home	hope home rose spoke note those
u-e	u-e: huge brute	tune rude use June excuse
aw	aw: yawn at dawn	saw raw law straw dawn crawl
are	are: care and share	bare bare spare scare flare square
ur	ur: nurse with a purse	burn turn hurl burp slurp lurk
ow	ow: brown cow	howl down brown drown gown
oi	oi: spoil the boy	join coin voice choice noise
ai	ai: snail in the rain	paint train rain plain strain
e	e: he me she we	he me she we he
oa	oa: goat in a boat	toad road oak loaf throat toast
ew	ew: chew the stew	new knew flew blew crew newt

er	er: better letter	over never weather hamster after
ire	ire: fire,fire!	spire bonfire inspire conspire hire
ear	ear:hear with your ear	fear dear gear spear year
ure	ure: sure it's pure	picture mixture adventure pure

RESOURCES

Read Write Inc. Phonics: Home More Phonics Flashcards



These cards are linked to the resources we use in school.

They retail at £6.99

However, you can order them from Amazon with free postage for less than £5

Take a look at these useful links for guidance:

The following are videos for teachers/parents which demonstrate how the RWI Phonics works in school and how it can be used at home to support your child's learning.

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

A great website that has lots of useful information on it to help you with supporting your son's/daughter's maths and reading development:

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

