

Phonics at Cusgarne

Children in the EYFS and Year 1 learn sounds from the 5 phonic phases alongside pseudo words (nonsense words) which are read within the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check which takes place in the Summer term.

PHASE 1

Phase 1 is designed to teach preschool children to listen attentively, to enlarge their vocabulary and to speak confidently. This phase also aims to support children to discriminate phonemes and reproduce audibly the phonemes they hear through-

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

PHASE 2

Phase 2 is the start of systematic phonic work. Children begin to understand the grapheme- phoneme correspondence. They will focus on their understanding of how words are constructed from phonemes and that phonemes are represented by graphemes. Children then begin to blend for reading. They start with simple VC (vowel consonant) words e.g. 'at,' 'it,' 'is' and then move on to CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words e.g. dog, cat, man

By the end of phase 2, the children should know 24 sounds...

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

and be able to read 5 tricky words...

the
to
I
no
go

They should be able to orally blend cvc words e.g. when you sound out c-a-t, they can tell you the word is cat, and also orally segment cvc words e.g. when you say mum, they can pick out the sounds m-u-m.

PHASE 3

Phase 3 builds on Phase 2. It completes the teaching of the alphabet and children move onto sounds represented by more than 1 letter (including some where the same letters can make different sounds e.g. oo– book, loop)...

DIGRAPHS – 2 letters that make 1 sound e.g. ll ss zz oa ai

TRIGRAPHS – 3 letters that make 1 sound e.g. igh air

j	v	w	x	y	z	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 read...

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

They should now, also, be able to spell the 5 tricky words from phase 2.

PHASE 4

Phase 4 does not introduce any new graphemes. The main aim of this phase is to consolidate the children's knowledge and to help them learn to read and spell words which have adjacent consonants, such as trap, string and milk. These can be sounded out but recognising them quickly makes for a stronger reader.

14 more tricky words are added too...

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

The children should now be able to write the Phase 3 words.

PHASE 5

Phase 5, Children will learn more graphemes and phonemes. For example, they already know 'ai' as in 'rain' but now they will be introduced to 'ay' as in 'day' and 'a-e' as in 'make.' Alternative pronunciations for graphemes will also be introduced, e.g. 'ea' in 'tea,' 'head' and 'break.'

ay	ou	ie	ea	oy	ir	ue	aw	wh
ph	ew	oe	au	ey	a-e	e-e	i-e	o-e
u-e								

They should also be able to read and write the 'first 100 high frequency words'

the	and	a	to
said	in	he	is
of	it	was	you
they	on	she	I
for	at	his	but
that	with	all	we
can	are	up	had
my	her	what	there
out	this	have	went
be	like	some	so
not	then	were	go
little	as	no	Mum
one	them	do	me
down	Dad	big	when
It's	see	looked	very
look	don't	come	will
into	back	from	children
him	Mr	get	just
now	came	oh	about
got	their	people	your
put	could	house	old
too	by	day	made
time	I'm	if	help
Mrs	called	here	off
asked	saw	make	an

By the end of Year 1, the children should be confidently reading all of these words and writing them accurately too. Phonics Screening Checks take place annually in the Summer Term for all Year 1 children. In addition, any child in Year 2 who did not pass the Phonics Screening Check re-takes the test.

PHASE 6

Children in Year 2 now begin to focus on Phase 6. The focus is on learning spelling rules for word endings or 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

The children begin to learn statutory spellings and are also expected to be able to read and write the 'next 200 common words'.

Phonics terms:

Grapheme: the written letter.

Phoneme: the sound each letter makes.

Diagraph: 2 letters which make 1 sound.

Trigraph: 3 letters which make 1 sound.

Split diagraph: 2 letters which make 1 sound when split by another letter.

Consonant diagraph: 2 consonants which blend to make a sound.

Consonant cluster: 3 or more consonants which blend to make a sound.

Common exception words: words which cannot be spelt using our phonics skills. Words which we learn to spell using alternative methods, mnemonics, rhyme, syllables etc