

Letters and Sounds Progression Expectations

| Phase | Phonic Knowledge and Skills |
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| Phase One Nursery/ Reception | Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting. |
| Phase Two Reception (up to 6 weeks) | Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions. Set 1: s, a, t, p Set 2: i, n, m, d Set 3: g, o, c, k Set 4: ck, e, u, r Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss |
| Phase Three Reception (up to 12 weeks) | The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Set 6: j, v, w, x Set 7: y, z, zz, qu Graphemes: ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language. 3.1 - Reading and spelling CVC words using letters and short vowels. 3.2 - Reading and spelling CVC words using a wider range of letters, short vowels, some consonant digraphs and double letters. 3.3 - Reading and spelling a wide range of CVC words using all letters and less frequent consonant digraphs and some long vowel phonemes. |
| Phase Four Reception (4 to 6 weeks) | No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants e.g. swim, clap, jump. The progress through Phase 4 can follow the pattern of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CVCC (e.g.: lost) ➤ CCVC (e.g.: stop) and CCV (e.g.: tree) ➤ CCVCC (e.g.: trust) ➤ CCCVC (e.g.: strap) ➤ CCCVCC (e.g.: shrink) |
| Phase Five Throughout Year 1 | Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know. 5a (Phase 5) – 4 weeks ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e 5b (Alternative pronunciations) – 3 weeks 5c (Alternative Spellings) – 22 weeks |

