

How else can you help?

Listen to your child read: five times a week for five minutes would be great! Encourage your child to read to themselves too.

Find opportunities to read anything and anywhere!



Make it fun!

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

Cbeebies - Alphablocks

Espresso- has lots of phonic videos and games.

Play snap with phonemes and words.

Further Information

For a free online course to help your child read and write:

<http://www.sounds-write.co.uk/>

(Scroll to bottom of the page to access parent online course)



Supporting Your Child with Phonics

Key Stage 1



Castle Newnham



Why do we teach phonics?

Learning to read through phonics rather than whole word recognition means that children do not need to remember as much. They can use the sounds we teach them to build almost any word.

The Phonics Screener Test

The children are given 20 real words to read, for example: **chin**, **horn**, **brighter** and **forest** and 20 alien words such as **steck**, **hild**, **quemp** and **geck**.



Why alien words?

When reading “alien” words children are forced to use their phonic skills rather than relying on word recognition alone.

Pure sounds

We begin teaching with individual letter sounds. We do not teach letter names initially but their pure sounds. We say a **short c** not see or kuh and a **short b** not bee or buh.

Blending

When beginner readers sound out words, they slowly say each sound in a word (c-a-t), and then say the sounds quickly together to read the word (cat).

If your child is struggling to blend first encourage them to say the sounds, then say the sounds to them...initially with a gap between them and then if they still cannot blend the sounds say them closer together, e.g.

c---a---t c--a--t c-a-t

Key Concepts

Sounds can be represented with more than 1 letter.

Encourage children to sound-out using digraphs.

shelf **farm** **crow** **night** **space** **shirt**

If they can't remember the sound a digraph makes, tell them and then let them work out the word!

Sound are represented using split-spellings or split digraphs.

bake **eve** **kite**
bone **tube** **flute**

So, the word **bake** has 3 phonemes and we sound out “b **a_e** and k”- the **a_e** digraph is split by the k.

One sound can be represented with different spelling choices.

a	ea	ai	a_e
table	great	rain	cake
ay	ey	eigh	
play	they	eight	

One spelling choice can represent more than one sound.

ea	
great	speak