



# Reading at home

Your child is learning to read with Read Write Inc. Phonics, a very popular and successful literacy programme.

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way.

He or she will learn to:

1. Read letters by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into words
3. Read the words in a story.

## How will my child learn to read?

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:

**m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x** and sounds written with two letters (your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch qu ng nk ck**

- They then begin sound-blending words containing these sounds, e.g., m-a-t mat, c-a-t cat, g-o-t got, f-i-sh fish, s-p-o-t spot, b-e-s-t best, s-p-l-a-sh splash
- When they can do this confidently, they will begin bringing home Blending Books then Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy**

- They will learn to blend words containing these sounds
- When they can do this confidently, they will begin bringing home Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**

- They will learn to blend words containing these sounds
- When they can do this confidently, they will begin bringing home Blue and Grey Storybooks.

## Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

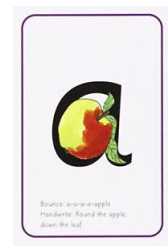
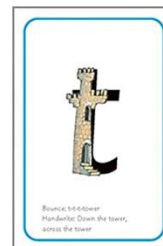
The more clearly you say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them. Visit [www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents) to practise saying the sounds clearly.

**Important: We say 'mmm' not 'muh' and 'llll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.**

Your child has been bringing home the Set 1 Speed Sounds. You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture.

For example:

- 's' is in the shape of a snake
- 'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur
- 'a' is in the shape of an apple
- 'm' is in the shape of two mountains.



## Help your child to read words

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can only say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.



You can help your child to read words by following these steps:

1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read quickly, e.g., c-a-t



Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.

Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds. Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

2. Put out three cards. This time ask your child to say the sounds. Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.

3. Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g., b-l-i-p, f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.

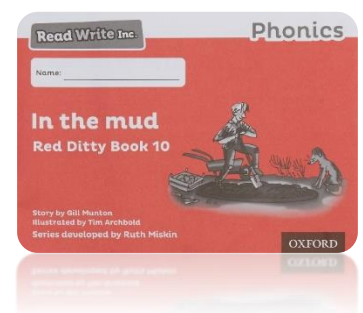
## Help your child read the Sound Blending Books

When your child starts blending words they will bring home Sound Blending Books. Encourage your child to read each word in sounds (Fred Talk) and then say the word. Then, he or she can turn over and check if they're right.



## Help your child read the Black and White Storybooks

As soon as your child starts to read the Read Write Inc. Phonics Storybooks, he or she will bring home a black and white Storybook. This is a copy of the colour version he or she will have read at school. Your child will have read this story three times with their reading teacher, so should be able to read the story confidently. A brief explanation of how to follow the activities is included in the books.



## Book Bag Books

Your child will also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has just read. Your child will need more support in reading this book. Again, explanations of how to use the activities are included in the books.



## How to listen to your child read

- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.

- Do it all with patience and love!

We have a story time every day at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night.

## **Glossary**

**Fred Talk** – sounding out the word before reading (blending)

**sound-blending** – putting sounds together to make a word, e.g., c–a–t cat

**special friends** – sounds written with more than one letter, e.g. sh, ng, qu, ch

**speed sounds** – the individual sounds that make up word

**If you have any questions please ask**