

An Introduction to Twinkl Phonics

For Parents and Carers



Subject
Leaders

Here is some of the terminology you might hear as your child begins to learn phonics.

Phoneme - the smallest unit of sound in words

Grapheme - the written representation of a sound

GPC (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence) - being able to match a phoneme with the correct grapheme and vice versa

Blending - joining individual speech sounds together to read a word

Segmenting - breaking down words into individual speech sounds to spell a word

Digraph - two letters making one sound, e.g. 'sh'

Trigraph - three letters making one sound, e.g. 'igh'

Split digraph - two letters making one sound which are divided by a consonant, e.g. the i_e sound in the word 'side'

Tricky/Common Exception Words - words that are not fully decodable, such as 'the' and 'was'

Sound buttons - circles or spots that can be written underneath a sound to support reading

Sound bars - lines that can be written underneath digraphs or trigraphs to show that the letters make one sound

Mnemonic - a visual prompt to help children remember a sound



What is Synthetic Phonics?

- Synthetic phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing in which words are broken up into their smallest units of sound or 'phonemes'.
- Children learn to associate a written letter or group of letters, known as 'graphemes', with each phoneme.
- Sounds are then joined or 'blended' together into words for reading or, conversely, whole words are broken down or 'segmented' into their sounds for writing.
- It is the UK's most preferred method of teaching phonics.
- Sounds are taught in a prescribed order starting with s, a, t, p, i, n, as this allows for the most words to be made from the start. Such as 'sat,' 'tap' and 'pin.'

What Is Taught and When?

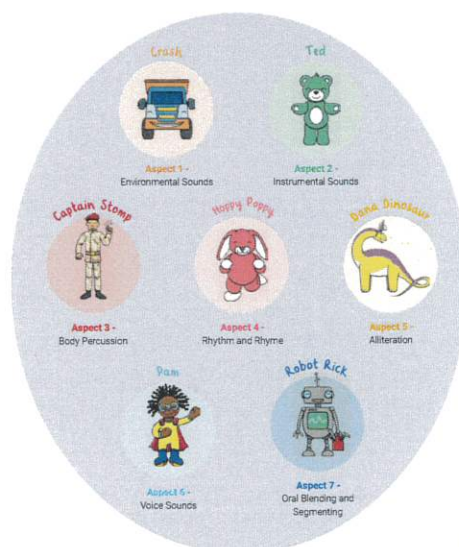
Twinkl Phonics Level	Number of Teaching Weeks	Recommended Year Group (UK schools)	Age of Children
Level 1	36	nursery/preschool	3-4 years
Level 2	7	reception	4-5 years
Level 3	12	reception	4-5 years
Level 4	5	reception	4-5 years
Level 5	30	year 1	5-6 years
Level 6	30	year 2	6-7 years

Level 1:

By the end of Level 1, children will have had opportunities to:

- listen attentively;
- enlarge their vocabulary;
- speak confidently to adults and other children;
- discriminate different sounds including phonemes;
- reproduce audibly the phonemes they hear in words;
- orally segment words into phonemes.

These learning opportunities are presented through 7 Aspects.



Level 2:

By the end of Level 2, children will have had opportunities to:

- identify the phoneme when shown any Level 2 grapheme;
- identify any Level 2 grapheme when they hear the phoneme;
- orally blend and segment CVC words, such as 'sat' and 'pat';
- blend sounds to read VC words, such as 'if', 'am', 'on' and 'up';
- segment VC words into their sounds to spell them (using magnetic letters);
- read the tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out): the, to, I, no, go.



Level 3:

By the end of Level 3, children will have had opportunities to:

- say the phoneme when shown all or most Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes;
- find all or most Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes, from a display, when given the phoneme;
- blend and read CVC words (single-syllable words, consisting of three Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes) such as 'chop' and 'night';
- segment and make phonetically plausible attempts at spelling CVC words (single-syllable words, consisting of three Level 2 and Level 3 graphemes) such as 'paid' and 'seed';
- read the tricky words - he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all, are & spell the tricky words - the, to, I, no, go;
- write each letter correctly when following a model.

Level 4:

By the end of Level 4, children will have had opportunities to:

- give the phoneme when shown any Level 2 or Level 3 grapheme;
- find any Level 2 or Level 3 grapheme when given the phoneme;
- blend and read words containing adjacent consonants, as well as segment and spell words containing adjacent consonants, such as 'sand', 'bench' and 'flight';
- read the tricky words - some, one, said, come, do, so, were, when, have, there, out, like, little, what & spell the tricky words - he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, here, they, all, are;
- write each letter, usually using the correct formation;
- orally segment words into phonemes.

No new sounds are taught in Level 4.

Level 5:

By the end of Level 5, children will have had opportunities to:

- give the phoneme, when shown any grapheme that has been taught;
- for any given phoneme, write the common graphemes;
- apply phonics knowledge and skills as the primary approach to reading and spelling unfamiliar words that are not completely decodable;
- read and spell phonically decodable two-syllable and three-syllable words, such as 'dolphin' and 'fantastic'
- read automatically all taught tricky and common exception words;
- accurately spell all the Level 2, 3 and 4 tricky words and most of the common exception words for reading;
- form each letter correctly;
- use alternative ways of pronouncing and representing the long vowel phonemes, e.g. 'ea' in 'beak', 'ee' in 'seed' and 'y' in 'happy'.

Level 6:

By the end of Level 6, children will have had opportunities to:

- read accurately most words of two or more syllables;
- read most words containing common suffixes;
- read most common exception words;
- read most words accurately, in age-appropriate books, without overt sounding and blending, fluent enough to allow them to focus on their understanding rather than on decoding individual words;
- sound out most unfamiliar words accurately, without undue hesitation;
- segment spoken words into phonemes and represent these by graphemes, spelling many of these words correctly and making phonetically plausible attempts at others;
- spell most common exception words correctly.

At this stage, children can read hundreds of words automatically. They are now reading for pleasure and reading to learn, rather than learning to read.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

In June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

The aim is to check that a child is making progress in phonics. They are expected to read a mixture of real words and 'nonsense' words. (Nonsense words can also be referred to as 'pseudo' or 'alien' words.)

If a child has not reached the expected standard, schools must give additional support to help the child to make progress in year 2.

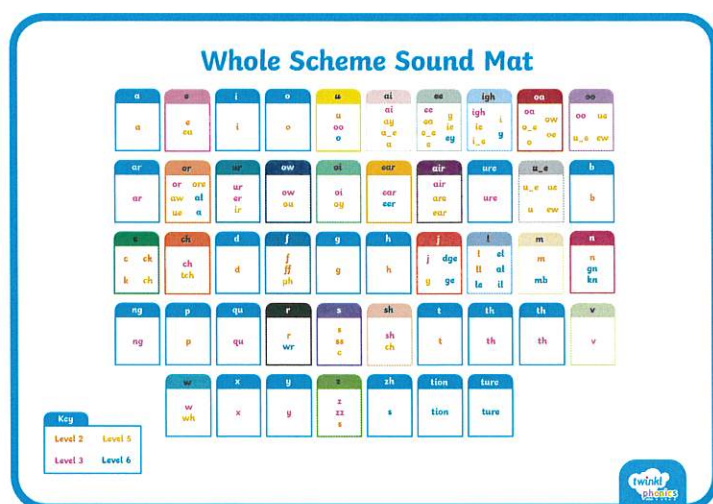
Children who have not passed the check in year 1 will have the opportunity to retake it in year 2.

For more information, take a look at the [Twinkl Phonics Year 1 Screening Check Guide for Parents](#).

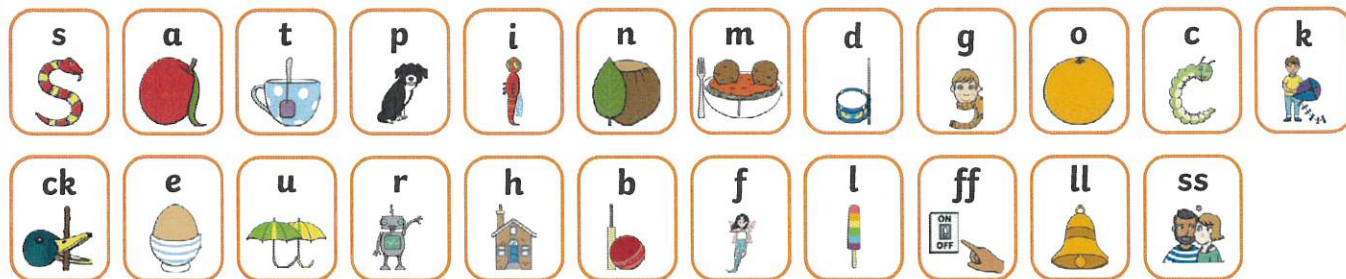
How You Can Help Your Child at Home

- Work on listening skills, taking turns and encouraging your child to look at you when you are speaking.
- Practise segmenting and blending words.
- Look for familiar sounds and words in the world around you. For example, in the supermarket, can your child find words on your shopping list? Can they recognise letters on street names or on car number plates?
- Practise the new sounds and graphemes your child brings home using the Parent Information Sheets. Remember to use 'pure' sounds (e.g. a very short and distinct 'p' and 't' instead of 'puh' and 'tuh') when pronouncing the sounds and model the correct letter formation as is taught in school.
- Support your child to complete any homework they bring home.
- Read to and with your child every day.
- Finally, remember to ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure about any aspect of your child's phonics learning. A consistent approach is very important.

Have fun!



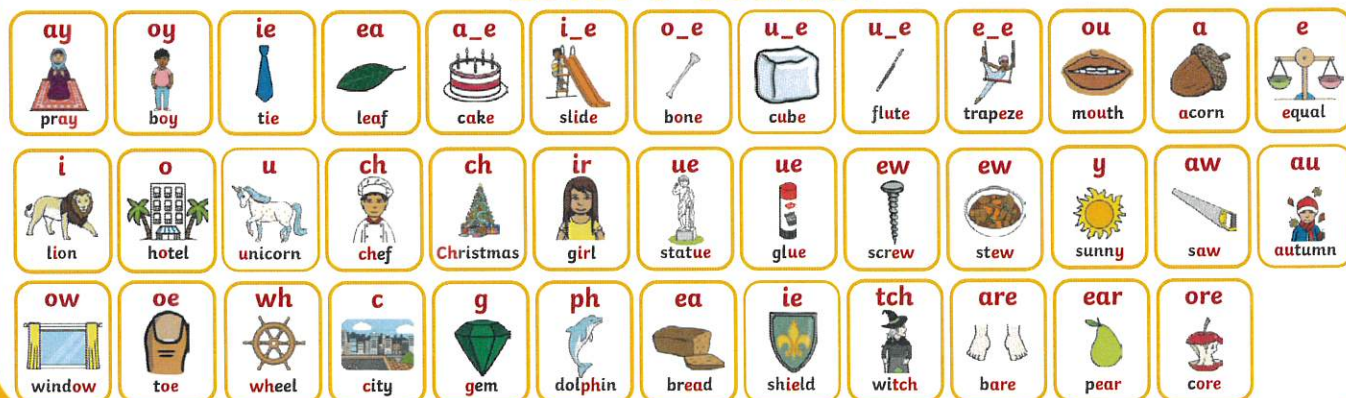
Level 2 Sounds



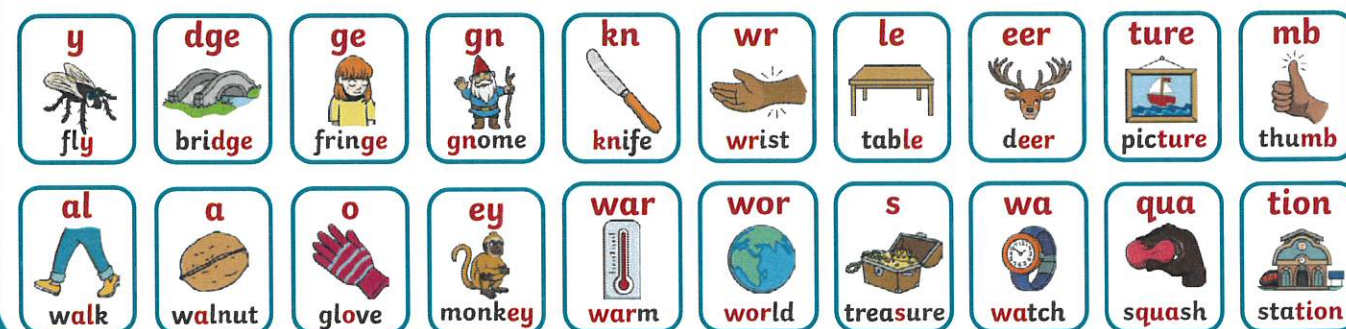
Level 3 Sounds



Level 5 Sounds



Level 6 Sounds



My e Sound Family



egg



bread

My u Sound Family



umbrella



glove

My ow Sound Family



clown



mouth

My ur Sound Family



pepper



purse



girl

My z Sound Family



pigs



zigzag

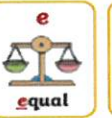


buzz

My ee Sound Family



cheese



equal



shield



sunny



trapeze



leaf



monkey

My oa Sound Family



boat



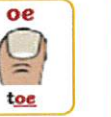
hotel



bone



window



toe

My igh Sound Family



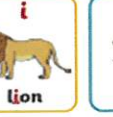
knight



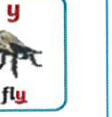
tie



slide



lion



fly

My oo Sound Family



moon



glue



screw



flute

My or Sound Family



autumn



core



saw



horn



walk



walnut

My ai Sound Family



snail



pray

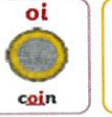


acorn



cake

My oi Sound Family



coin



boy

My u_e Sound Family



cube



unicorn



statue



stew

My ear Sound Family



ear



deer

My air Sound Family



chair



bare



pear

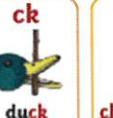
My c Sound Family



caterpillar



kite

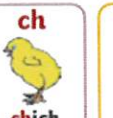


duck



christmas

My ch Sound Family



chick



witch

My sh Sound Family



sheep



chef

My w Sound Family



wave



wheel

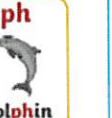
My f Sound Family



fairy



off



dolphin

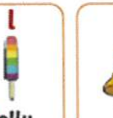
My l Sound Family



medal



pencil



lolly



bell



table



camel

My m Sound Family

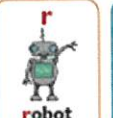


meatball



thumb

My r Sound Family



robot



wrist

My n Sound Family



nut



gnome



knife

My s Sound Family



kiss



snake



city

My j Sound Family



jet



gem



fringe



bridge

Level 2 Tricky Words



I the go



no

to



Tricky Words



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



Level 4 Tricky Words



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



Level 5 Common Exception Words



said so	have like	some come	were there	little one
do when	what could	should would	want their	Mr Mrs
love your	people looked	asked called	water where	who why
thought through	work house	many laughed	because different	any eye
friend also	once please	live coming	Monday Tuesday	Wednesday brother
more before	January February	April July	scissors castle	beautiful treasure



Level 6 Common Exception Words

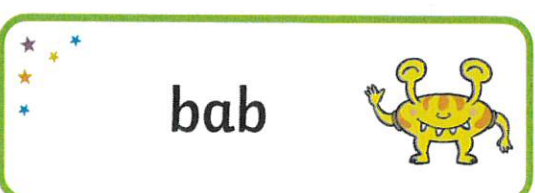
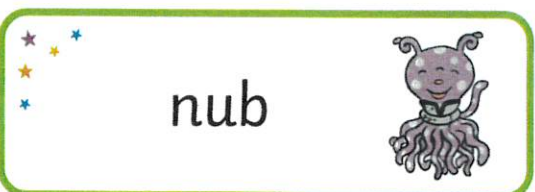
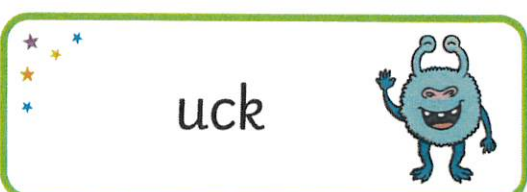
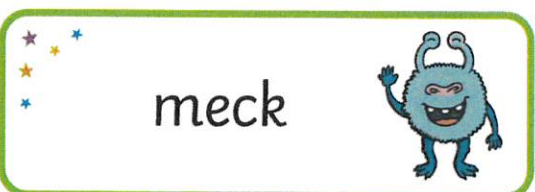
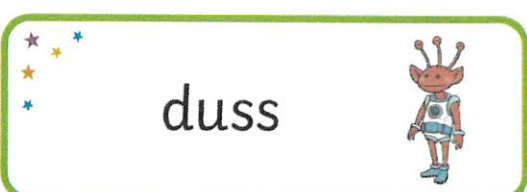
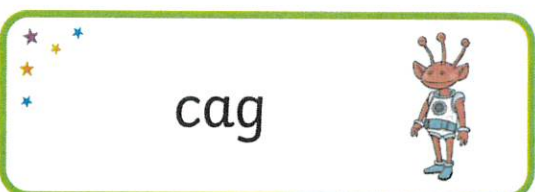
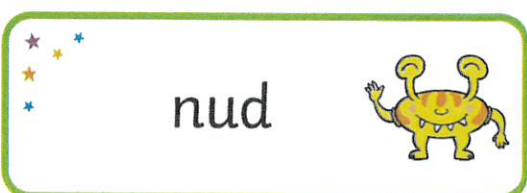
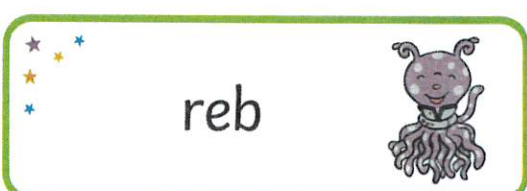
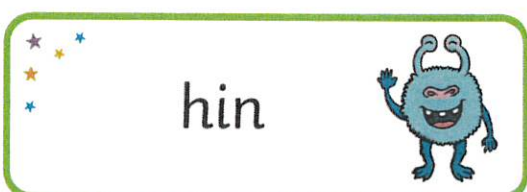
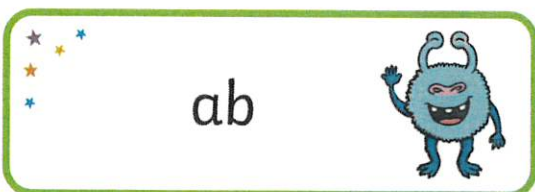


door floor	bought favourite	autumn gone	know colour	other does	talk two
four eight	world work	poor great	break steak	busy clothes	whole listen
build earth	delicious fruit	learn search	famous shoe	pretty neighbour	England tongue
group country	heart dangerous	special enough	aunt father	prove improve	hour move
sure sugar	half quarter	straight touch	caught daughter	journey area	heard early



Letter formation using our fun mnemonics and *rhymes*

	Around the apple, up the stalk and down the leaf.		Down the bat, up and around the ball.		Curl around the caterpillar.		Around the drum, up and down the stick.		Around the egg and under the cup.		Over the fairy's head, down her dress and give her a wand.		Around Gabi's head and wrap her scarf.		Down the chimney to the floor, up and over the new front door.		Down the insect's body and tail, dot the head.
	Down the jet, around its trail and dot the sun.		Down Kit, up and around the kite and down its tail.		Down the lolly and lick!		Down the fork, over and over the meatballs.		Down the leaf, up and over the nut.		Around the orange.		Down the puppy's neck and leg, up and around his head.		Around the queen's head, down and up her arm.		Down the robot's body, up and over its arm.
	Curl around and around the snake's body.		Down the teaspoon and under the teacup, then across the top.		Down one umbrella handle, up and down the other.		Down the neck, up the neck.		Down the wave, up the wave, down the wave, up the wave.		Criss, cross.		Swing the yoyo up, drop it all the way down and underneath.		Zig, zag, path.		visit twinkl.com



quick

much

quert



poch



queen

church

quig



chul



rich

rocker

chaf



moch



check

cash

loch



losh



money

bone

vate



strume



delete

tube



drime



baunch

honey

stone

gabe



drume



these

play



trife



hout

Useful websites:

How to pronounce pure sounds and actions for Twinkl Phonics:

Level 2 pure sounds and actions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SzkjubQ-Ok&list=PLO-i3BsM9k4lo-Mt9dd6eCbhAtkklUN7P&index=5>

Level 3 pure sounds and actions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZGwM48Wy5E&list=PLO-i3BsM9k4lo-Mt9dd6eCbhAtkklUN7P&index=4>

Level 5 pure sounds and actions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ugGQqMmvFA&list=PLO-i3BsM9k4lo-Mt9dd6eCbhAtkklUN7P&index=3>

Blending sounds: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2XTk_xf6wbo&list=PLO-i3BsM9k4lo-Mt9dd6eCbhAtkklUN7P&index=6

Past Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Materials:

<https://www.primarytools.co.uk/phonics-check-year-1-and-year-2/>

<https://www.gov.uk/education/phonics>

Phonics games – some games are free, others require a subscription

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

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>