

Key Terms (to support phonics)

Term	Meaning	Example
Phoneme	The individual unit of <i>sound</i> in a word. The English language contains 44 different sounds	
Grapheme	The letter or group of letters that visually represents the <i>phoneme (sound)</i>	Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g ough
GPC	GPC is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.	
Digraph	2 letters which represent 1 sound	ck, ch, sh, th, ng
Trigraph	3 letters representing 1 sound	ear, air, ure, igh
Blending	Merging the individual sounds (<i>phonemes</i>) to say a word	c-a-t, cat or th-i-n, thin
Segmenting	The skill of recognising the individual sounds (phonemes) needed to spell and write a word	
De-code	Work out and read a word	
Vowel sounds	Short vowel sounds: a, e, i, o, u Long vowel sounds: ai, ee, igh, ow, oo	
Split digraphs	When a digraph is split by a consonant, it becomes a split digraph. Wrote – the 'oe' here makes one sound with 't' sound pronounced.	name, time
CVC words	Words that use a consonant-vowel-consonant layout	cat, pin, top.
CCVC words	Words that follow a consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant layout	clap, from
High Frequency Words-	Words that occur most often in English. Some of which cannot be sounded out phonically. Your child will learn these in sequence and you may see them abbreviated as HFW or called 'tricky' or 'key' words	with, then, back, (see First 100 and Next 200 HFW lists)
Tricky words	These are words do not follow phonic rules. Your child will be unable to use their phonic skills to sound them out and blend so they will need to learn to recognise the word and say it (<i>whole word recognition</i>).	said, have, was, any, once
Reading	The ability to look at written symbols and understand their meaning. Children who are ' <i>learning to read</i> ' gain the skills to recognise the symbols (<i>graphemes</i>), de-code unfamiliar words and remember those learnt before. Children who are ' <i>reading to learn</i> ' have mastered this and will begin to develop their understanding (comprehension).	