



# What you need to know about Phonics



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# What we're going to learn about...

- To understand what phonics is and why it's important.
- To get an idea of how we teach phonics at South Normanton Nursery school.
- To understand how phonics learning progresses.
- How to support at home?



# Over to you...

- What do think phonics is?
- Can you remember how you were taught to read when you were at school?...is it the same as now?



# Phonics is...

- a way of teaching reading (and writing) based on developing children's awareness of phonemes

*A phoneme is just a single unit of sound  
like 'p' 's' 't' there are 44 altogether*

- Phonics teaching helps children to hear, say and use phonemes to then read and write.



# The government stuff...

- Rose review(2006) independent review of teaching early reading

- Y1 Phonics screening.

*Schools are legally required to publish results*



# ...it's a bit like code cracking

- Knowledge and understanding of phonics (sounds)



Blending  
(squashing)  
READING



Segmenting  
(stretching)  
WRITING

- Independent READING AND WRITING





# Here's a video to help you to understand a little more about phonics

► <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc>



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# So how do we do it at nursery?

- Use a combination of tried and tested and recommended approaches
- Letters and Sounds

*(document recommended by DfE)*

*Phase 1 is all about LISTENING AND ATTENTION  
(Listening, concentrating and making sounds)*

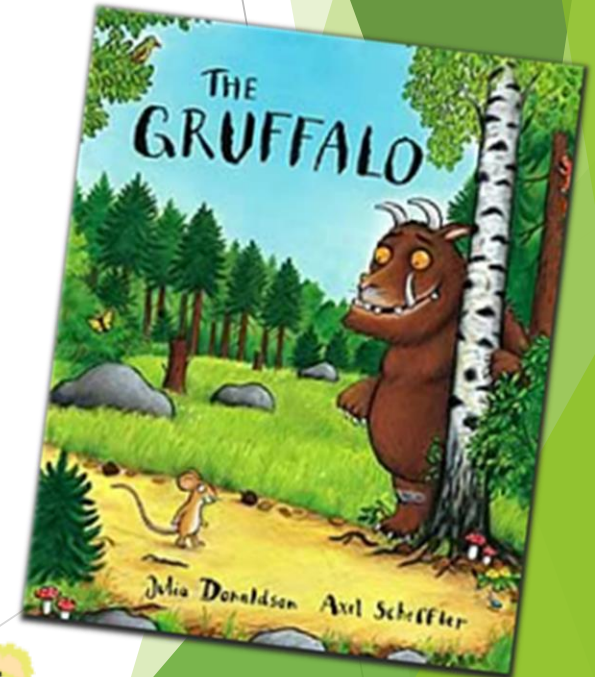




# So how do we do it at nursery?

- Familiar stories (core stories)

*Becoming used to rhyme, rhythm and alliteration*



# So how do we do it at nursery? ...lets get the instruments out!



- Familiar songs and rhymes  
(sounds/ rhythms/ rhyming words)

*Music and movement/ playing instruments*

*...this also includes all our routines at nursery as well*

*These are also things you can do at home.*



# So how do we do it at nursery?

- Specific activities adapted from Letters and Sounds

Example activities/ resources...let's have a go!

- listening walks/ giant listening ears- *what can you hear?*
- Making 'silly sounds'
- Clapping syllables
- rhyming socks- *match the pairs of socks that rhyme*
- Silly Soup (alliteration) It only goes in if it begins with... 't' e.g. *toothbrush, treacle, tap, tomatoes*
- sound talk - "*put on your c oa t*"





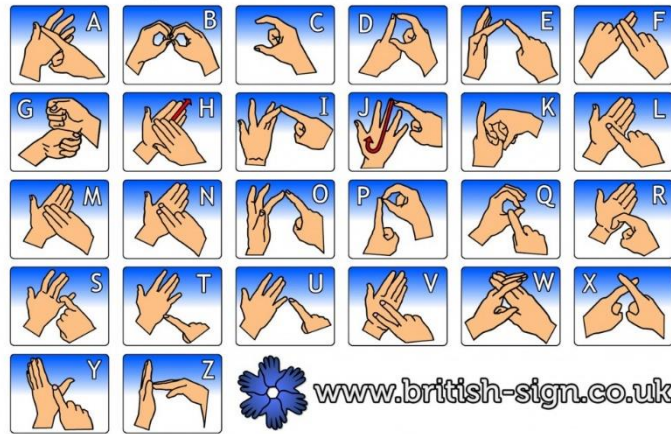
# So how do we do it at nursery?

## Signs for sounds



- We know how well Makaton works to support communication and learning

### BSL Fingerspelling Alphabet



- ▶ We use the Makaton (BSL) finger spelling alphabet to add a action (kinaesthetic) element to learning letters and their sounds.



# So how do we do it at nursery?

## Pronunciation



**Pronunciation** of the sounds is really important  
not 'uh' on the end - use soft voice!

**Video - Articulation of Sounds**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJx1NSineE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>



# So how do we do it at nursery?

## Linking sounds and letters



- Children become familiar with letters and sounds  
*They are taught that*
  - words are constructed from sounds (phonemes)
  - sounds are represented by letters (graphemes)





# So how do we do it at nursery?

## Linking sounds and letters

### Read, Write Inc



- *Both The Brigg and The Green schools now use Read, Write Inc to support the teaching of phonics*



- ▶ We use the Characters to support sounds and letter formation when this is appropriate.
- ▶ Stretchy sounds/ bouncy sounds
- ▶ s a t p i n m d



# Here's a little bit more information about Read Write Inc

- ▶ This video may be useful to help you to understand about Read Write Inc...especially if your child is going to an infant school which also uses this way of teaching phonics
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjlPILhk7bQ>



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# Helping at Home...

## Reading with your child

There are also lots of great online stories for children to watch too...  
but nothing is better than actually reading a story with your child.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjHqJQ8sxs4>



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