

# Reading at home

## Booklet 1

At St Joseph's we view reading as a key life skill that will enable children to become lifelong readers. We passionately believe that every child will learn to read, regardless of their background, needs or abilities. We aim for all our children to become fluent, confident readers who are passionate about reading.

Your child is learning to read with **Read Write Inc. Phonics**, a very popular and successful literacy programme. This **first booklet** shows you how you can get your child off to a quick start.

If you have any questions about Phonics, please contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs Millican, Assistant Head for KS1 and Phonics Lead.

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**
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,  
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*
- Blending Books and 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**
- Words containing these sounds
- 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**
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so:

- 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em';
- 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

For support in pronunciation of the sounds, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc>

## 1. Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

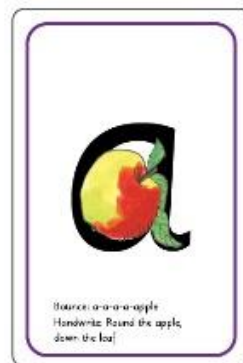
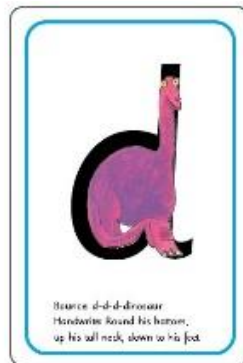
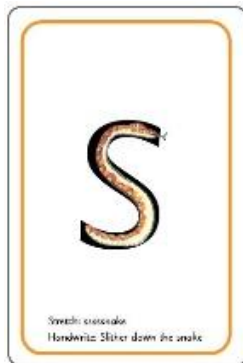
Before you get going, visit [www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents) to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly *you* say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them.

**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.

In Reception, your child will bring home the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards.

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.



## Using the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards

The name of each picture is written on the back of the cards.

1. Ask your child to say the name of the picture on the back of each card, e.g. a-a-a-apple, ssssnake, getting quicker each time.
2. Help your child to say the sound hidden behind each picture, e.g. 's' is behind the snake. Repeat until your child can do this quickly.
3. Help your child to say the sounds on the letter side, getting quicker each time. If he or she forgets, turn back to the picture side.

When your child can say the sounds without turning over to check, increase the speed!



Learning the Speed Sounds in the classroom.

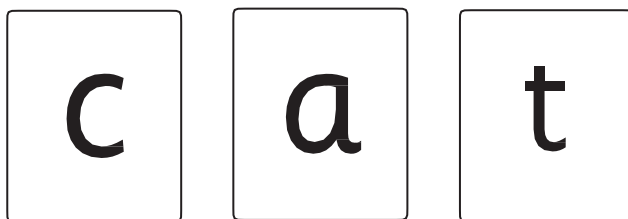
4. As your child becomes more confident at reading a number of sounds, flick through the cards and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the 'picture-sound' is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.

## 2. 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.



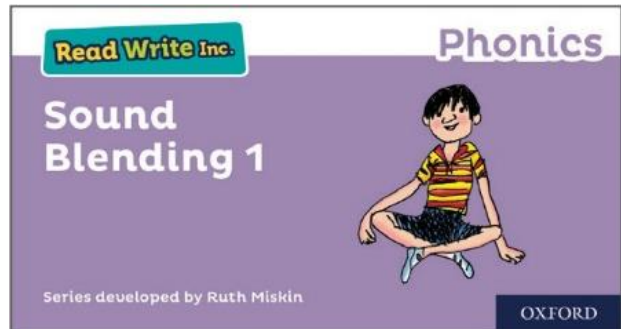
2. Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you
3. Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.
4. Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.
5. 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.

6. 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.

### 3.Help your child read the Sound Blending Books

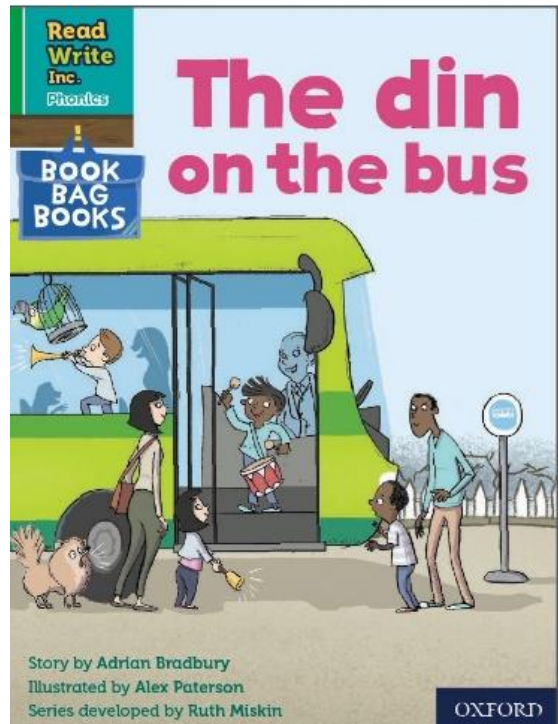
Ask your child to read each word in sounds (Fred Talk) and then say the word. Then, he or she can turn over and check if they're right.



### 4.Help your child read the Storybooks

As soon as your child starts to read the *Read Write Inc. Phonics* Storybooks, he or she will be assigned a story book to read at home.

A brief explanation of how to follow the activities is 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 Storytime 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. We have wonderful books in school for you to borrow.

## 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 words