



Fossa NS

Helping your child to read

This booklet is a guide to helping your child read throughout the school year. Please refer back to this booklet at any stage during the year.

Helping your child to Read!

Reading is a skill we learn at the beginning of our school days! We need it to help us in all other subject areas such as Maths, Science, History, Music etc. Furthermore, reading is a "lifelong skill" as we use it every day in our lives. For example to read menus in restaurants, to read the sports results in newspapers or on television, to read traffic signs and public notices.

We all agree, we **need** to be able to read throughout our lives.

Our approach to reading is one which engages the children right from day 1! We use the Jolly Phonics programme and below is a quick step-by-step guide to learning to read.

Step 1: Recognise and say the sounds in English.

We begin in September by introducing the sounds (or phonemes) of the English language. There are 44 sounds made up of the 26 alphabet letters and then additional two letter sounds such as "ee" in jeep, "ai" in rain.

We show the children the letters so that they can visualise the sounds. We teach them the sound so that they can hear it being said. We also teach them a sensory movement for each sound. For example for the sound s:

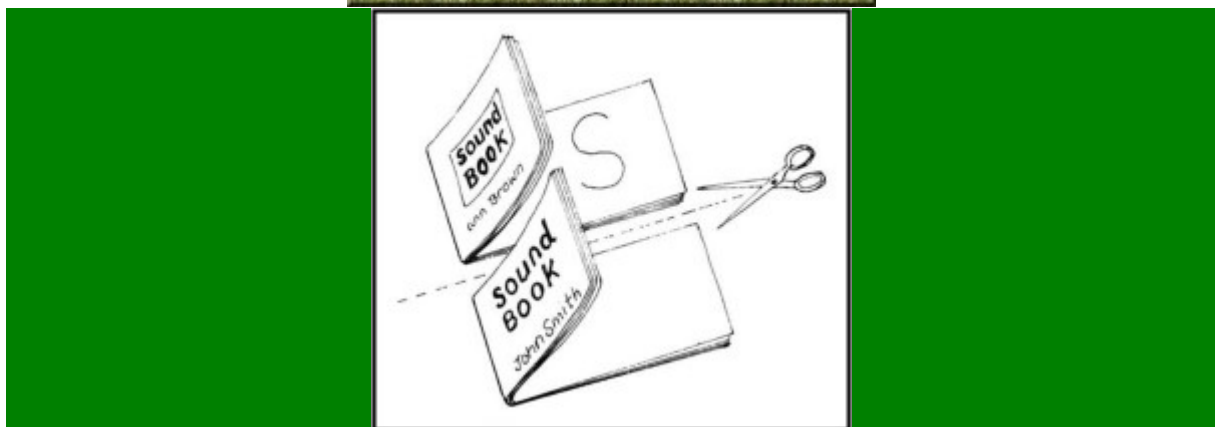
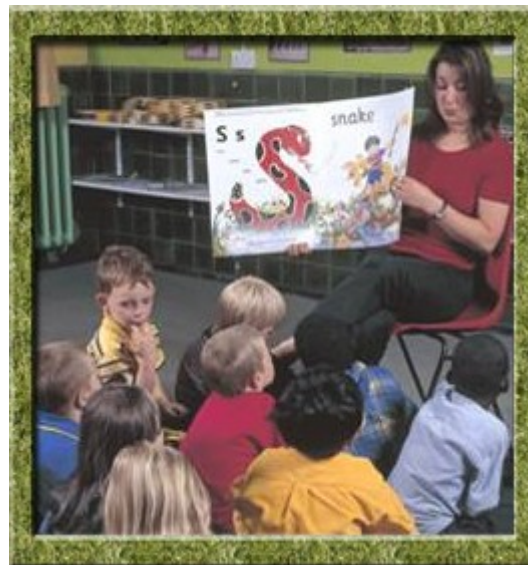
- we show them the letter s
- we say a hissing sound ssssss
- we weave our arm in a snake like movement.

By combining the visual, auditory and sensory movements the children will retain the sound s in their memories longer.

[Click on this link to hear the songs:](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCjJYB07aSU>

which accompany each new letter sound. This will help you support your child as he/she learns the action and songs for each sound.



To help your child in this step, please encourage him to look at his **sound book**. Show him the sound, listen to him say the sound, ask him to do the action. Encourage him to hear the sound in everyday words. For example, say the words "sun, sand, sea" and encourage him to identify words that he hears the 's' sound in.

Step 2: Learn to combine sounds to form words.

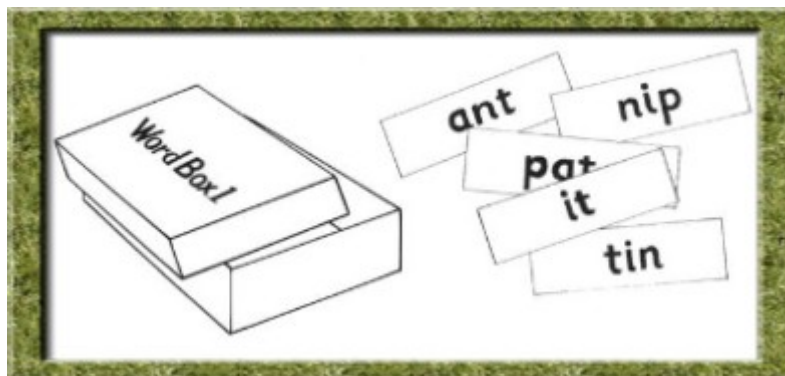
After children have learned the sounds, they progress to develop the skill of combining sounds together to form words. This is called "blending".

For example, in learning to read the word 'pat':

- Start by saying the individual sounds of "p", "a" and then "t".
- Repeat **saying** these sounds, **pushing** the sounds together.
- All the time encourage your child to **listen** for the word.

With practise, the blending skill will develop.

To help your child with this step, you should show him the words from his **word box**. Encourage him to say the individual sounds over and over, while listening for the word. Practise this skill often!



Step 3: Learn the Tricky Words!

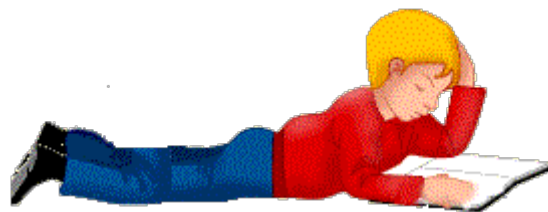


Not all words can be sounded out (or blended)!

These are Tricky Words and we just have to learn to them. For example the word 'he' can not be sounded out as 'h' and 'e'.

To help your child with this step, simply show him the tricky words from his **Tricky Word** folder. Perhaps play a matching game of snap whereby he says the tricky word each time a card is turned over.

Step 4: Read, read, read!!!!



Once your child has learned the individual sounds, has developed the skill of blending and learned to recognise some tricky words he is ready to read!!

Some tips for reading:

- Make reading time a **quiet** time for you and your child.
- Let him choose a book from a range of age appropriate books. In our [local library](#) the children's section is divided up according to age. Similarly book shops will categorise children's books by age.

- Start by exploring the book cover. Discuss the front cover pictures, asking him to guess what the book might be about. He may know that the author's name will usually be printed at the bottom of the front page.
- Next, ask him to open the book and again discuss the pictures (or illustrations).
- Encourage him to look at the words.
- Ask him if he recognises any **tricky words**.
- Begin reading. Initially you should begin and then encourage him to read.
- If he hesitates on words, let him hear you sound them out. Encourage him to sound out / blend.
- Continue in this manner of discussing the illustrations, identifying tricky words, sounding out unfamiliar words, **reading together**.

Above all, encourage and support him/her as he/she reads! Your child's self-confidence and reading ability will develop significantly with your support and encouragement.

