

The background of the slide is a collage of various letters and words in different colors (red, blue, green, yellow, purple, orange) scattered across the page. Some visible words include 'WATER', 'MONEY', 'LIFE', 'LOVE', 'HAPPY', 'SUNNY', 'WINDY', 'CLOUDY', 'RAINY', 'SNOWY', 'WINTER', 'SUMMER', 'SPRING', 'FALL', 'WINTER', 'SUMMER', 'SPRING', 'FALL', 'WINTER', 'SUMMER', 'SPRING', 'FALL'.

Phonics in Reception



1. What is phonics?

At Bickley, all children in Reception take part in daily phonics sessions which lasts for between 10 and 15 mins.

These sessions are based on the 'Letters and Sounds' programme which consists of the teaching of phonics through six phases. This is the programme on which the Jolly Phonics scheme is based and their resources will help to support the work we do in school.

Phase 1

- At nursery, your child will have had experience of phase 1.
- The emphasis of this phase is on developing the children's listening skills through songs and games and recognising alliteration and rhyme e.g. animal sounds and rhyming pairs.
- In Reception, we continue with these activities and within the first few weeks, will start Phase 2.



2. What is the difference between a *phoneme* and a *grapheme*?

Phase 2

- The purpose of this phase is to begin teaching the most common letters that make sounds, starting with **s a t p i n**, and for the children to be able to blend and segment simple words.
- By the end of this phase, the children should be able to read and spell some VC and CVC words.
- During this phase the children will also learn to read some 'tricky' words.

Your turn!

How many words can you make with the following sounds:

s a t p i n

Pronunciation

It is essential that parents pronounce the sounds in the same way that the children are taught them. This may be different to how you were taught them. E.g.

s a t p i n



3. Give an example of a 2 syllable word.



4. What are
VC/CVC words?



5. What is a
tricky word?

Phase 3

- In phase 3, we complete the teaching of the 44 sounds (not 26 letters) including those that are represented by more than one letter e.g. ch and igh.
- Children continue to practise CVC blending and segmenting, applying their knowledge to reading and writing two-syllable words and captions.
- We also learn to read and spell some more 'tricky words'.

Sound buttons

How many sounds do you think are in these words?

bed → 3
• • •

duck → 3
• •

crab → 4
• • • •

night → 3
 • •

Digraphs and Trigraphs

2 letters making 1 sound is called a digraph
e.g. *ck, sh, th, oo, oo, ai, ee, ng*

3 letters making 1 sound is called a trigraph
e.g. *igh, air, ure*

Sometimes, 4 letters make 1 sound
e.g. *ough, igh*

Phase 4

- This is the final phase taught in Reception.
- The purpose of this phase is to read and spell words with adjacent consonants that make separate sounds.

bend

spin

grip

windmill

sandpit

Trash or treasure

- Throughout all of our teaching of phonics we introduce children to the idea of 'trash' or 'fake' words and 'treasure' or 'real' words.
- Giving children fake words to read means that they have to sound it out, as they will not be able to rely on their sight vocabulary.
- Real and fake words can be looked at as early as the first week of phase 2 with words such as these:

at sa ip pip as nip tas
tin it ap pat in

Challenging more able pupils

Some children come to school with good phonic knowledge and are already able to read. These children will join in with the whole class teaching but will be challenged to write words or sentences using the sound of the day alongside their existing phonic knowledge.

Helping at home

- Every Friday, we will send home a phonics activity to help consolidate the sounds learnt at school that week. This will include identifying the sounds learnt that week, practising letter formation and should be fun for you and your child. Some children enjoy writing on paper whereas others would prefer to paint letter shapes or trace them in flour on a baking tray.
- Children with good phonics knowledge and application when they arrive, they will be given homework appropriate to their needs.
- It is really important that the children use the correct pronunciation of sounds so that they can segment and blend effectively.
- The website [communication4all](https://communication4all.com) has a Jolly Phonics sounds and songs presentation which can be accessed on the internet. Another useful website is phonicsplay.co.uk.