## Welcome



# How did you learn to read? Can you remember?



### Book-by-book-by-book?



# There have been many different methods of teaching reading over the years!





# Phonics is for adults - not just for 'infants'!

 What do we do when we want to read an unknown Latin plant name?

 What do we do when we want to spell a new multi-syllable word?

# On the count of three, read these words aloud...

### Calceolaria integrifolia

# Now I'll give you a new word to spell...

We set children up for lifelong reading and spelling when we teach phonics rigorously and comprehensively.

We are not expecting children to deduce the code for themselves like many of us had to during our school days.

 The English language is a rich language consisting of hundreds of thousands of words

 Problems arise with written language for both reading and spelling

 the influence of many languages over many years. e.g. Anglo-Saxon, West Germanic, North Germanic, Latin, Norman French

### Teaching of early reading

Sir Jim Rose and a team of inspectors conducted an independent national review in 2005-6 informed by research and leading-edge practice:

This was following a parliamentary inquiry into the teaching of reading (2003 – 2006)

### The official guidance in England:

Teachers should use Systematic Synthetic Phonics programmes and 'cumulative' decodable reading books for beginners

### Why is it 'synthetic' phonics?

Synthesising = sounding out and blending the sounds to read the *unknown* words



(aloud or silently!)

# Our school uses the Oxford Reading Tree Floppy's Phonics programme

By Oxford University Press and Debbie Hepplewhite



# Oxford Reading Tree Floppy's Phonics programme

#### Floppy's Phonics is designed:

- to inform parents and carers routinely and fully about their children's reading, spelling, handwriting and vocabulary development
- to aspire to work in partnership

### Teaching reading, spelling and handwriting with the 'two-pronged systematic and incidental phonics' approach for all children



Debbie Hepplewhite Synthetic Phonics Training Floppy's Phonics and Debbie's training are 'DfE validated' debbie@phonicsinternational.com

### A two-pronged approach to synthetic phonics teaching and learning



Systematic: Planned incremental phonics programme

The Alphab	etic Code	
Conplement and key most	Simplement and key worth	Graphenes and key words
H 1 10 11 11 11	N L S	(ee) 14 g 14 4 44
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(e)	Vert T T T	Nghi en e e e e
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Ever-present

Alphabetic Code Chart

#### **Incidental:**

- individual
- •group
- •class
- as needed

# The synthetic phonics teaching principles work for all!

- √ The 'alphabetic code' is taught systematically
  - and incidentally when required
- ✓ Same alphabetic code and phonics skills need to be taught no matter how different the children may be some may need extra practice!
- ✓ Children all succeed to talk, to read, to spell, to write

### But one size does not fit all But children learn in different ways

"...all beginners have to come to terms with the same alphabetic principles if they are to learn to read and write...

...It cannot be left to chance, or for children to ferret out, on their own, how the alphabetic code works."

Sir Jim Rose in response to common misunderstandings (Final Report, March 2006)

### What is the alphabetic code?

Allotting letter symbols for the smallest sounds of speech is the basis for creating a spelling code - enabling us to communicate through writing.

Translating the letter symbols into sounds is the basis for reading.

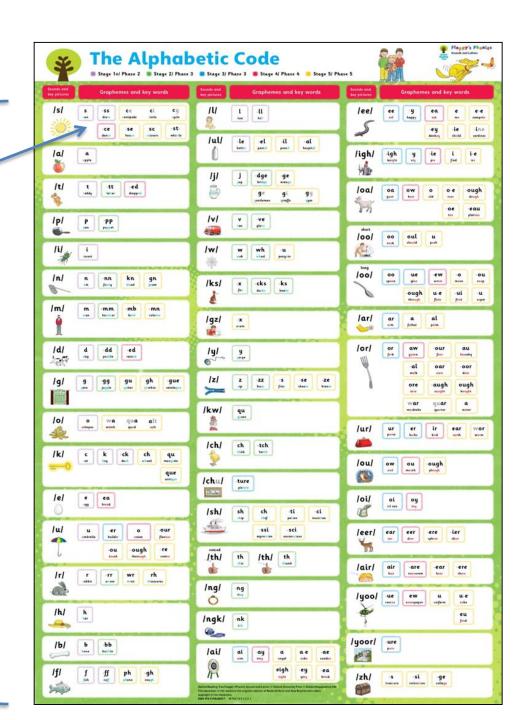
We can show this visually on a chart to make the alphabetic code tangible.

# Graphemes or spelling alternatives

-across the rows

### Sounds

- down the left columns as there are fewer sounds than graphemes



# Graphemes or spelling alternatives -across the rows

**Graphemes** are letters or letter groups that are code for the sounds:

e.g. sound /ai/ acorn, aid, play, cake, grey, sleigh, straight

### Sounds (phonemes)

 down the left columns as there are fewer sounds than graphemes The 'sounds' are the 'phonemes', these are the smallest sounds of speech that change the meaning of a word:

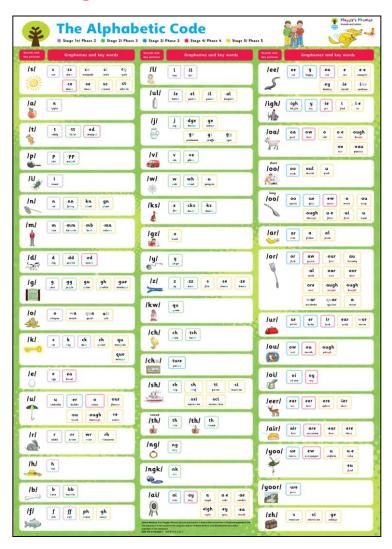
e.g. /b/ /oa/ /t/ compared to /k/ /oa/ /t/

Some 'sounds' are two phonemes combined:

e.g. letter **x** in 'fo**x**' is code for two phonemes /k+s/

There are around 44 phonemes in the English language but 50 'units of sound' on the FP Alphabetic Code Chart.

#### **English – around 44 sounds**



Complex or opaque code

#### Spanish – 24 sounds!

The Spanish Alphabetic Code



Copyright Debble Happlewhile end Corol George 2012

Simple or transparent code

### Assimilate, Adjust, Absorb

Is the Alphabetic Code Chart too complex to use from the beginning?

 The children start to assimilate the rationale, adjust to lesson routines and increasingly absorb the information.

It enables many children to self-teach.

It supports the adults in their understanding!

### The Synthetic Phonics Teaching Principles

Teach:

### **KNOWLEDGE** of the ALPHABETIC CODE

- = letters linked to the sounds of speech code is 'reversible', introduced 'systematically' THREE CORE SKILLS (and their sub-skills)
  - 1. 'Sounding out and blending' for reading
  - 2. Identifying sounds in words and allotting letters and letter groups for spelling
  - 3. Handwriting forming letters correctly while saying the sounds

**Apply:** 



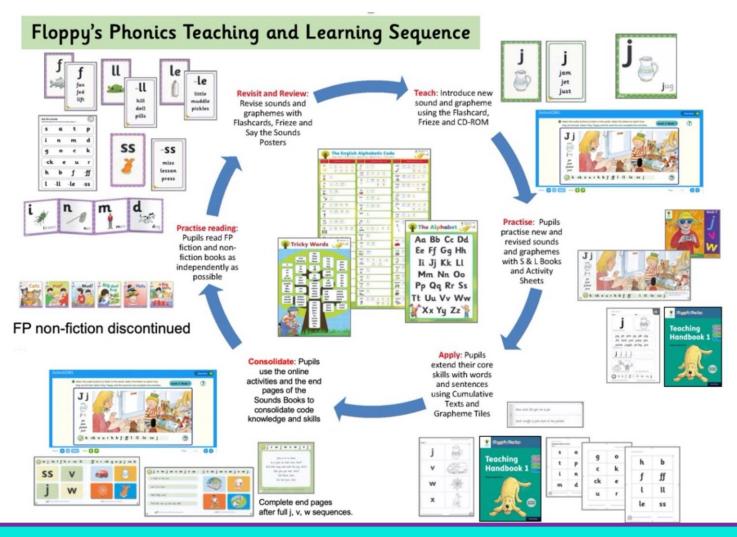
 Apply growing phonics knowledge and skills to CUMULATIVE words, sentences and texts for reading, spelling and writing

[cumulative = words which 'match' the alphabetic code taught to date]

 Apply to reading and writing in the wider curriculum

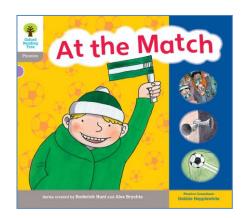


### **Teaching and Learning Sequence**



CD-ROMS now updated with online subscription platform accessible from 'home'

- Foundation Stage
- EAL or new to English
- Speech & language





### Pre-phonics

### Sounds:

- environmental
- rhythm, rhyme
- singing, chanting
- percussion, music
- •discussion!
- oral blending and segmenting (phonics sub-skills)

### Oral blending and oral segmenting

1. Sub-skill of reading without letters:

Say, "Pull up the /z//i//p/ of your /k//oa//t/."

2. Sub-skill of spelling without letters:

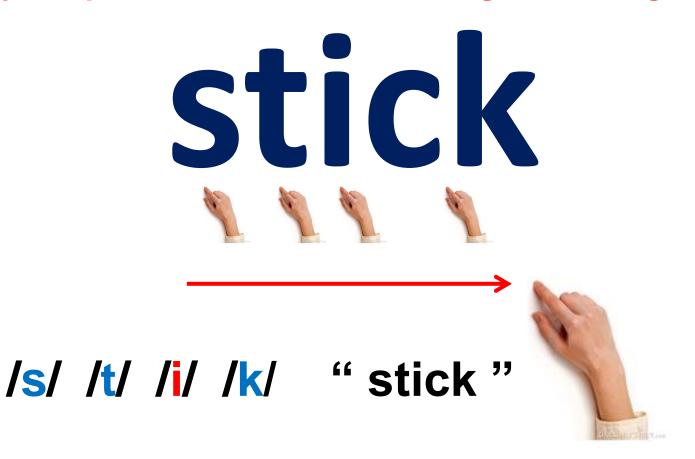
"Mat, /m/ /a/ /t/. Spoon /s/ /p/ /oo/ /n/."
This helps your child's awareness of sounds.

### **Decoding**

- 1. Study the printed word from left to right to recognise any 'letter groups'
- 2. Finger-track under each grapheme (letter or letter group) from left to right whilst saying each sound
- 3. Run your finger right under the whole printed word, from left to right, when you say the whole word

### **Decoding**

Study the printed word first – looking for letter groups!





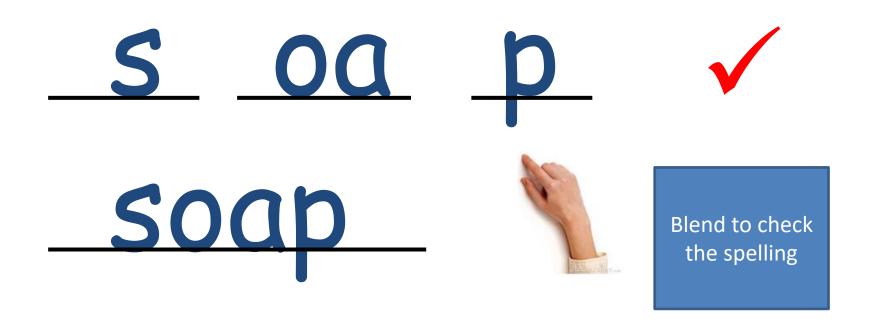
### **Spelling-with-editing routine**

- Face the same way as your child
- Left hand, palm facing make sure your child sees your hand 'on the left'
- Say the word to be spelt, very slowly the individual sounds will 'pop out'
- Tally the sounds onto thumb and fingers
- Repeat each sound separately and clearly
- Then count how many sounds

### Spelling-with-editing routine

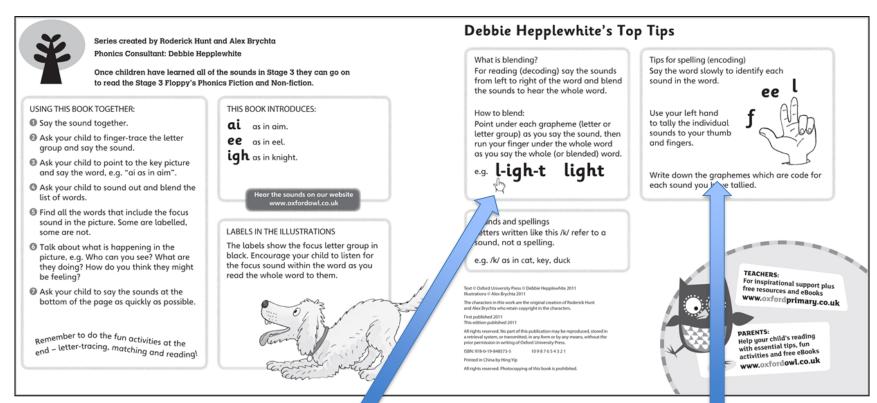
- Model how to write the 'sound dashes' top left of the page, from left to right
- The sound dashes double-up as writing lines
- Write the graphemes on the lines whilst engaging the child to call out the sounds as you write
- Then sound out and blend to check the word (engage your child to say the sounds without you as soon as possible)
- Confirm if the word is spelt correctly

### Sound dashes / writing lines



**Check letter formation too!** 

# Cover notes in the *Floppy's Phonics Books* provide guidance for the adult to support the young reader to blend and segment:



Blending routine for reading

Segmenting routine for spelling



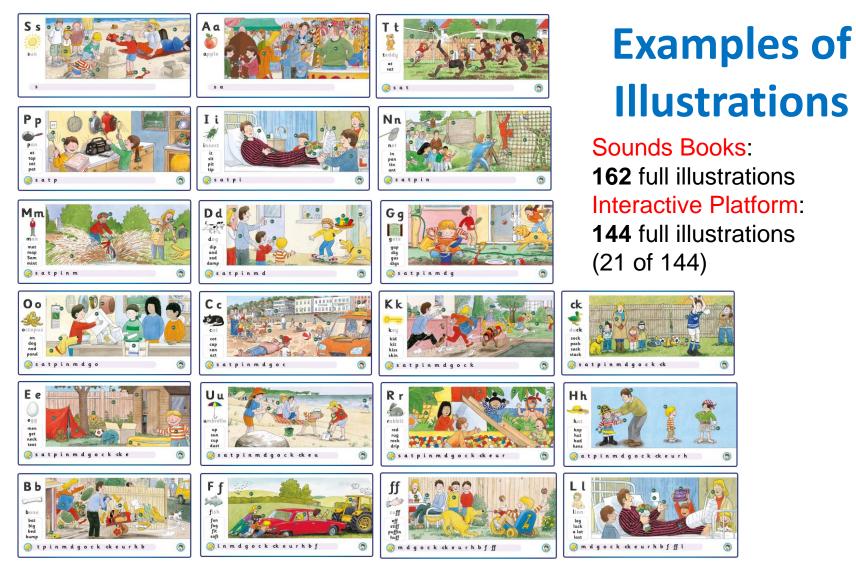
#### **48 Sounds Books**

6 level 1 'cloud books' not interactive

When letters and sounds are introduced, the books are numbered Book 1,
Book 2, Book 3
(36 numbered books)

### Print-rich and Picture-rich: oral language - not 'just' phonics

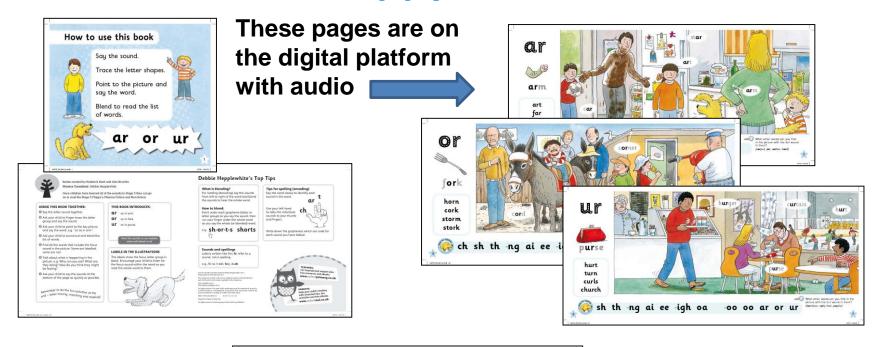




#### Picture-rich:

Oral language plus phonics examples in memorable contexts

### Inside the Floppy's Phonics Books

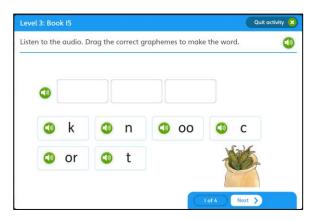




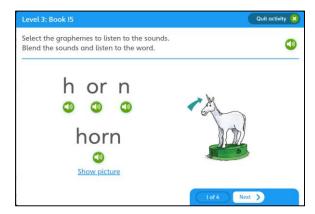
These 'end pages' are not on the digital platform



#### Sample Screen Views: web-based platform



Drag and drop for spelling



Blend and reveal for reading

Select the letters to watch letter formation



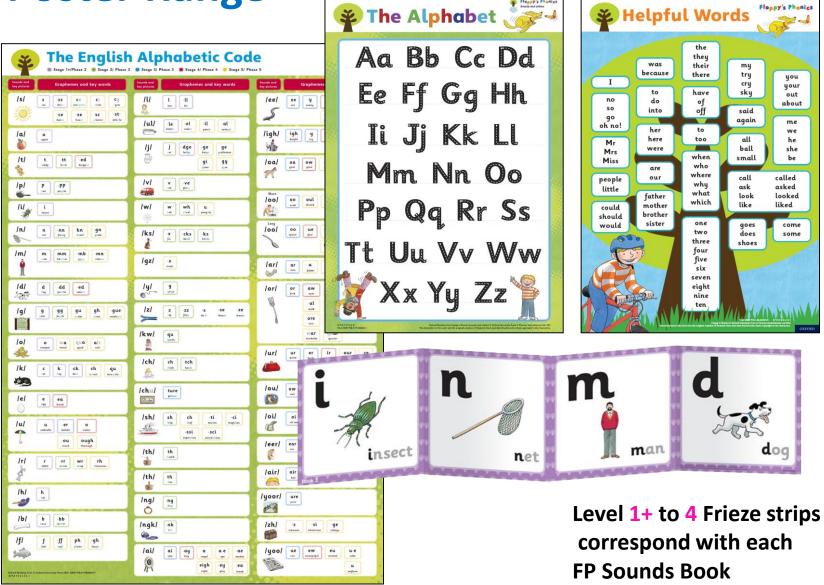


See the letter/s, say the sounds

Hear the sounds, point to the graphemes

For use in school and at home, the teachers will guide your use.

**Poster Range** 



Floppy's Phonics

your

about

me

we

she

called

asked

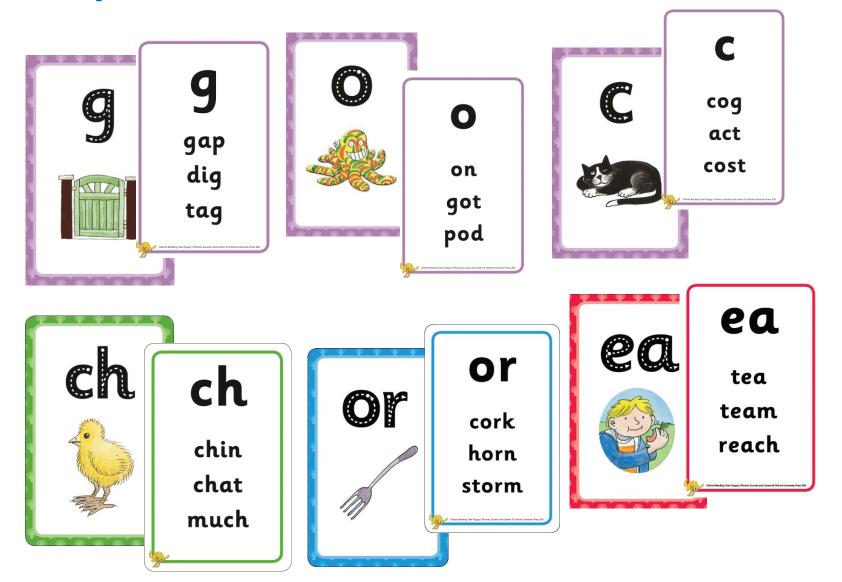
looked

come

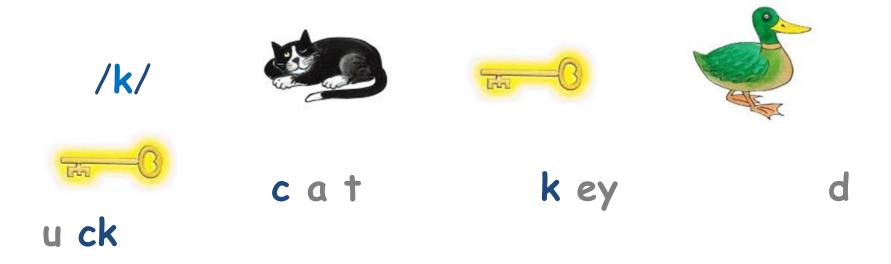
try

small

#### **Alphabetic Code Flashcards**



# Mnemonic picture-words

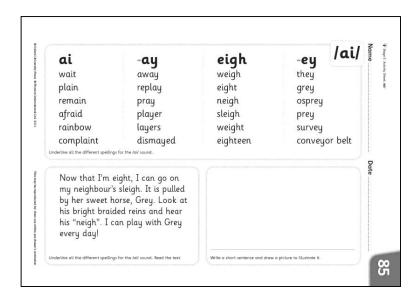


'Mnemonic' means 'aid to memory'.

Picture-words and their printed words make the learning of the different sounds and spellings more memorable and manageable and can clarify the teaching and learning for adults and children alike.

#### Phonics sub-skills and skills Activity Sheets



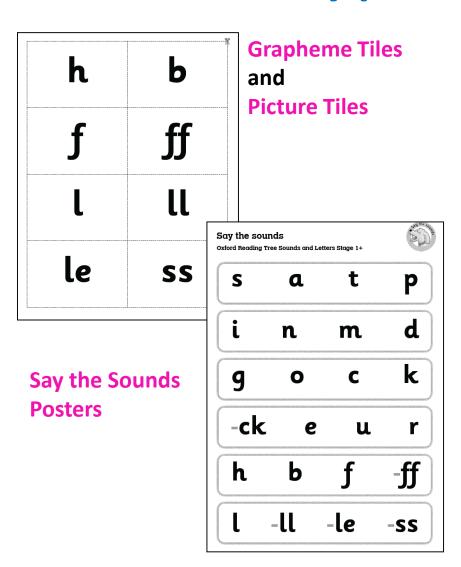


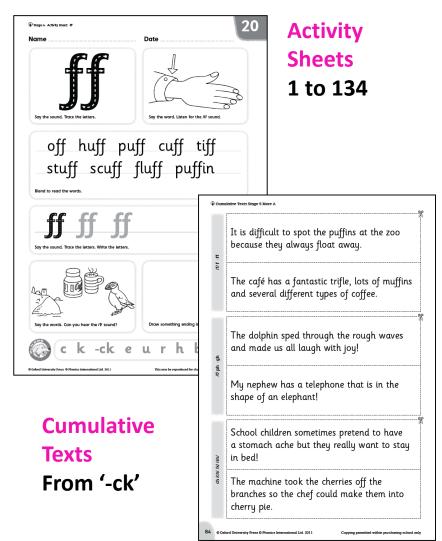
Teaching Handbook 2 - Level 5

Essential – extend practice to Cumulative Texts as part of the 'teaching and learning sequence'

**Teaching Handbook 1** 

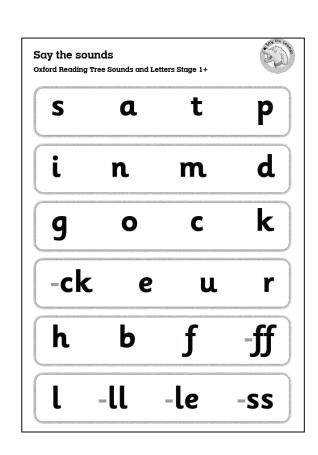
### Multi-sensory practice and application

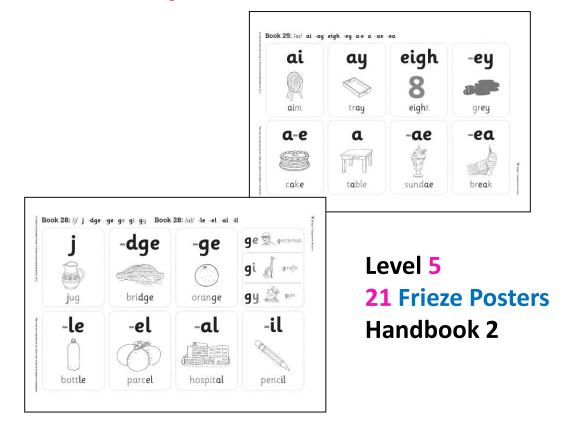




#### **Photocopiable Posters**

- and for use in children's phonics folders





Levels 1+ to 4

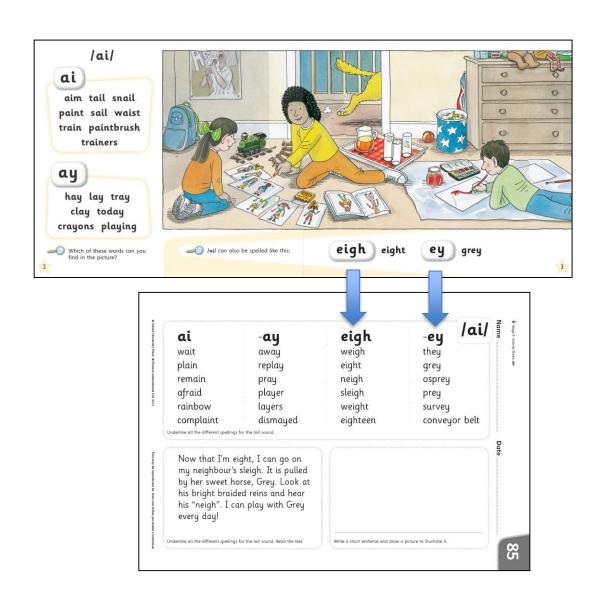
8 Say the Sounds Posters (from print-to-sound and sound-to-print)
Handbooks 1 & 2

# Vocabulary, Phonics and Building Spelling Word Banks



Phonics for reading and spelling linked to wider language, memorable pictures and story themes

#### **Example Word List of Six Words**



# Level 5 Sounds Books

Introduce new
I/s correspondences
in their
key word examples

# Level 5 Activity Sheets

Provide spelling word banks of focus spelling alternatives



# More about the alphabetic code and phonics skills later!

# What is reading?

The princess wore a pale green dress.

The girl reads the words in the book. She understands the words automatically if she would normally understand them when spoken.



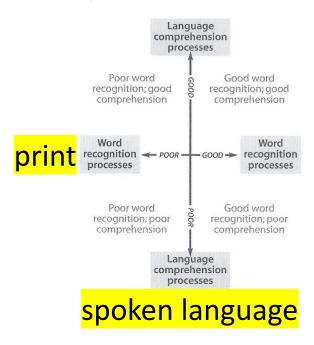


## Rose 2006 - 'Adopt Simple View of Reading'

Two main processes to be a reader in the full sense:

- 1. What IS the word?
- 2. What does the word MEAN?

#### Gough and Tunmer 1986



**SVoR:** Reading = Decoding x Language Comprehension







# TALK TALK TALK

There is nothing better than... shared sustained thinking and talking. **Chatter about** anything and everything with your children! 'Cultural or Literacy Capital'

# Why are books so important?













# Children who...

# read read read

massively increase their vocabulary (stock of words) and their knowledge and understanding of the world

# Children who...

read read read massively increase their

- life opportunities!



# The Alphabet and

# The Alphabetic Code

What is the difference?

# What role does the alphabet play?

- 1) Bank of letter shapes
- 2) Alphabetical order relayed by letter names (ay, bee, see) by singing a song at first
- 3) Note that the capital letters are the same *code for speech*sounds as the lower case letters (/a//b//k/)



We don't use letter names to teach reading or spelling!



Spelling is a sound-to-print process – even for adults! We turn speech sounds into letters and letter groups (encoding) when writing.

Letter names are used only for relaying a precise spelling, letter by letter (by letter name) from one person to another.

# **HANDWRITING**



Write all the upper case (capital) and lower case letter shapes of the alphabet with the correct tripod pencil hold. Say the sounds.

"Let me help you..."





# "Let me show you again..."

# "Froggy legs with the log under"





Patient repetition!

# Teaching reading and spelling with the complex English alphabetic code

# **About the alphabetic code**

Letters and letter groups are code for the individual sounds in our speech.

Decoding the letter symbols into sounds is the basis for reading (print-to-sound):

See the printed word soap, first look for any letter groups, then say the sounds /s/ /oa/ /p/, blend the sounds to read (or discern) "soap"

# The alphabetic code is a reversible code:

For reading:

we start with print and decode to sound

But for spelling and writing:

we start with sound and encode to print

#### The smallest sounds

Within any spoken word, phonemes (the smallest individual sounds) can be identified.

/b/ /oa/ /t/ /k/ /oa/ /t/

Slash marks are used to denote the 'sounds'.

We can hear the sound /a/ as in



We do not write words with slash marks.

We teach the children about the use of slash marks.





we can



Note: BUT Never write a word in the slash marks

for which the corresponding graphemes (letters or letter groups) are:

c I ow n

Note: We always write words in graphemes

 For beginners, we teach the letters and sounds of the alphabetic code in a 'simple' way at first...

 We teach all the sounds and at least one way of spelling them: e.g. /ee/ ee

 Then we continue to teach further spelling alternatives which are code for the sounds:

e.g. /ee/ ee ea e e-e -y -ey -ie

### **Pronunciation alternatives**

Some graphemes need to be decoded with *different sounds* dependent on the actual word. Thus graphemes sometimes have pronunciation alternatives:

```
e.g. Letter 'a' can be pronounced:

/a/ as in apple /ai/ as in angel

/ar/ as in father /o/ as in want
```

# We aim to create fearless and flexible readers and writers who want to be accurate!

It helps children to know the English code is complex and will need lots of teaching and learning. Teaching and supporting with reading and spelling continues as required.

# We encourage children to want to be accurate but not to be afraid to make mistakes.

"That's an interesting word, let me help you to spell that. Which sounds can you hear in the word? We need this spelling alternative for that word. Here are some more words that are spelt that way..."

Let me help you to spell that

tricky / unusual / interesting word ...



What sounds can we hear all through the word?



Let's find the /ee/ sound on our Alphabetic Code Chart.

Look, you need this spelling alternative - as in 'chief'.

Other examples of words with this code are brief and shield.

Quickly, let's make a poster of the /ee/ ie word bank.

Copyright Phonics International Ltd 2012

# Downloadable posters: Free CPD Resources at floppysphonics.com

# In summary,

there are three complexities to the English alphabetic code:

# The three complexities of the alphabetic code:

- 1. One sound can be represented by one, two, three or four letters.
- 2. One sound can have many spelling alternatives.
- 3. One grapheme (letter or letter group) can be code for different sounds.

  (That is soon be prepared differently!)

(That is, can be pronounced differently!)

### **Examples of three complexities:**

1. One sound can be represented by one, two, three or four letters;

```
e.g. <u>b</u>at <u>sh</u>eep h<u>air</u> <u>eigh</u>t
```

- One sound can be represented by more than one spelling alternative, sometimes many!
  - e.g. The sound /or/ can be written as: or, aw, our, au, al, oar, oor, ore, augh, ough, (w)ar, (qu)ar, (w)a
- 3. One grapheme (letter or letter group) can have different pronunciations;

```
e.g. 'ea' eat, bread, break 'ear' fear, bear, earth, heart
```

# **Engaging with the Alphabetic Code Chart**



Let's see how many vowel sounds and consonant sounds we can identify in the English language...

How many vowels do you think there are?

# Many people might think there are 5 vowels at first...

a e i o u

The 'volume' in spoken words is provided by the 20 or so vowel phonemes some of which we combine to make further units of sounds:

```
/a/ /e/ /i/ /o/ /u/ /ai/ /ee/ /igh/ /oa/
short /oo/ long /oo/ /ar/ /or/ /ur/ /air/
/eer/ /oi/ /ou/ /oor/
```

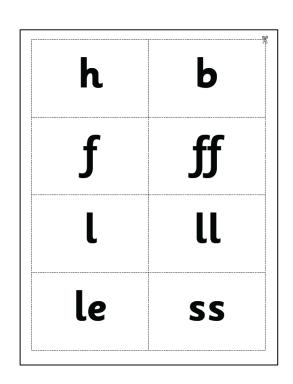
/y+oo/ /y+oor/ combined sounds

There are around 24 consonant phonemes – some of which we combine to make further units of sound:

```
/s/ /t/ /p/ /n/ /k/ /h/ /r/ /m/ /d/ /g/ /l/ /f/ /b/ /j/ /y/ /w/ /z/ /ng/ /v/ /ch/ /sh/ voiced /th/ unvoiced /th/ /zh/
```

```
/k+s//g+z//u+l//ng+k/
/k+w//ch+u/ combined sounds
```

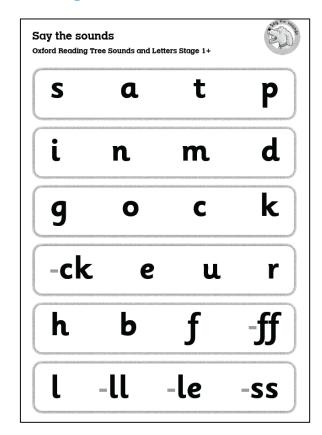
# Resources to teach the alphabetic code: Grapheme Tiles and Flash Cards

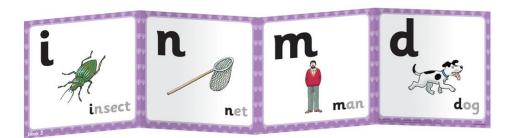




'See the graphemes and say the sounds' is a sub-skill of reading.

# 'Say the Sounds' Posters and Frieze



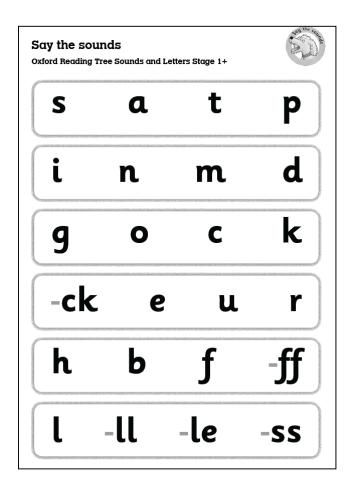


The frieze matches the code order in the Sounds Books.

Some 'Say the Sounds' posters match the order and some are in 'jumbled' order.

'Point to the graphemes and say the sounds' is a **sub-skill of reading**.

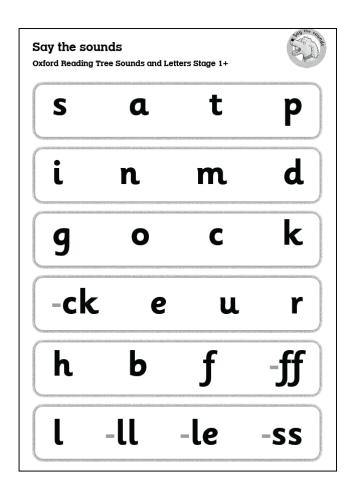
#### 'Hear the Sounds'



'Hear the sounds and point to the graphemes' is a **sub-skill of spelling**.

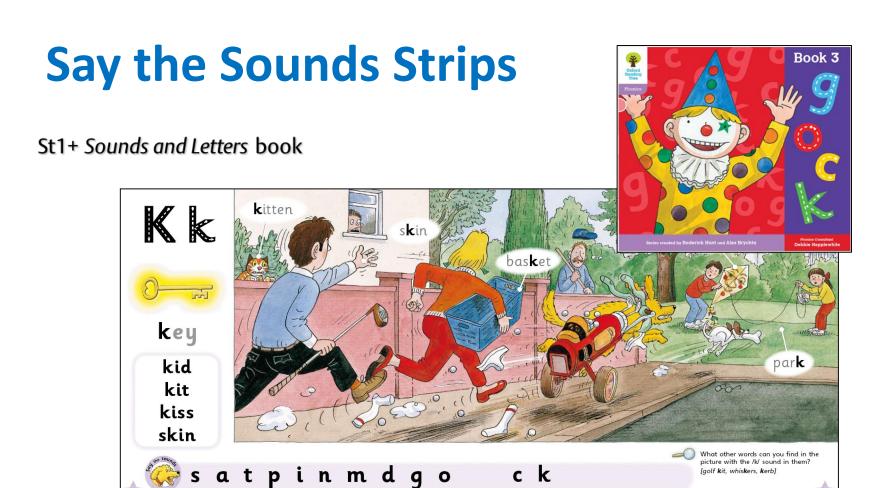
"Air-write /d/, /h/, /k/."

#### 'Hear the Sounds'



"Which /k/?"

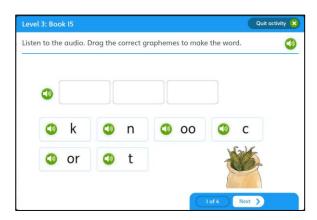
"The /k/
as in cat,
the /k/ as
in duck..."



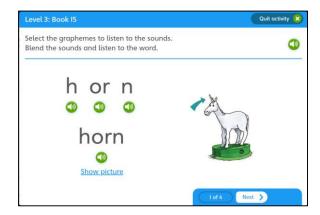


Repetition embeds the learning

### Sample Screen Views: web-based platform



Drag and drop for spelling



Blend and reveal for reading

Select the letters to watch letter formation





See the letter/s, say the sounds

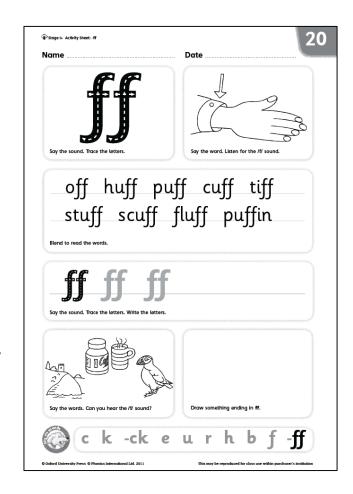
Hear the sounds, point to the graphemes

Repetition with the online platform and the paper-based resources

## **Essential MULTI-SKILLS Activity Sheets**

Individual practice of the sub-skills and core skills for reading, spelling and handwriting at word level

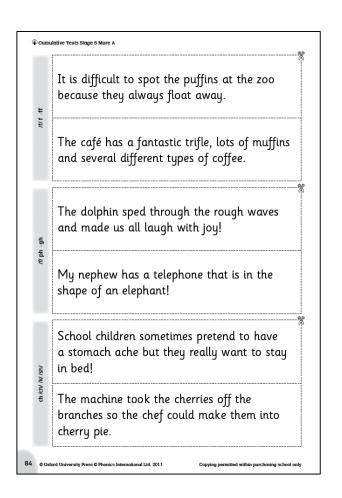
Children are fully trained in the routines – then they can work at their own speed independently.



### Simple, multi-purpose Cumulative Texts:

#### Work at own speed:

- Grapheme search
- Decode
- Comprehend
- Self-dictation
- Convert to joined writing
- Write extension sentence
- Illustrate
- Periodic teacher dictation



# The school's bookbag routine



The paper-based resources are constantly added to your child's phonics folder for the bookbag routine!

Parents can then see and support some of the phonics work that takes place in school.

Please 'take an interest' and repeat activities at home.

# Differentiation

 Learners access core resources differently – at their own stage of learning and speed.

 Every learner undertakes his or her own practice before collective practice.  Extension activities are always provided

Different levels of support

 Some learners may require additional time and more 'little and often' practice



# How the adult supports the learner to read is very important...

## 1. Tell the learner the code:

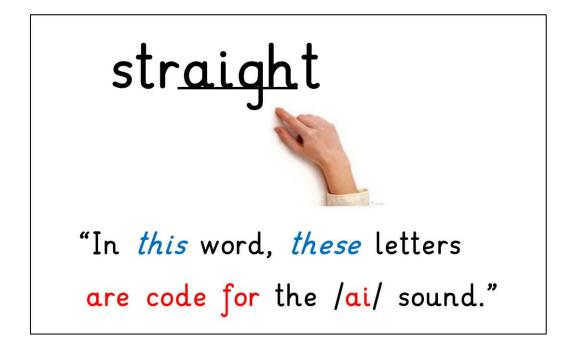
str**aigh**t

In this word, these letters





# How the adult supports the learner to read is very important...



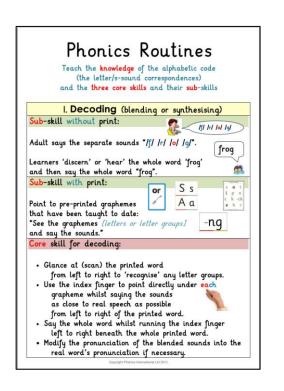
Downloadable poster at floppysphonics.com

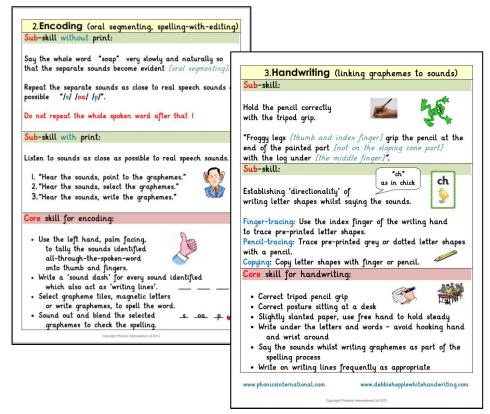
2. Alternatively, model the sounding out and blending of the word to the learner.

3. Or simply tell the learner the words which are proving too difficult.

## **Free posters for Phonics Routines**

- the three core skills and their *sub*-skills:





'Hand Routines' – floppysphonics.com

# **'Tricky Words'**

Useful words which are sometimes 'tricky' are introduced steadily throughout systematic synthetic phonics programmes.

It is better to tell the learner a really challenging word, than to tell the learner to 'guess' the word.

# And always the adult should discuss the content of the book with the child!



## **PLEASE:**



- 1. Listen to your child read to you and support as needed (AND talk a lot about the story)
- 2. Read books aloud to your child
- 3. Share the reading of books with your child
- 4. Continue to hear your child read aloud even when he or she can read independently
- 5. Chatter about everything!
- 6. Repeat the phonics routines with the Floppy's Phonics resources



# Library

















# Let's take just one sound ... ///

(...of 50 units of sound on your mini alphabetic code chart)

## Let's take just one sound ... / j /

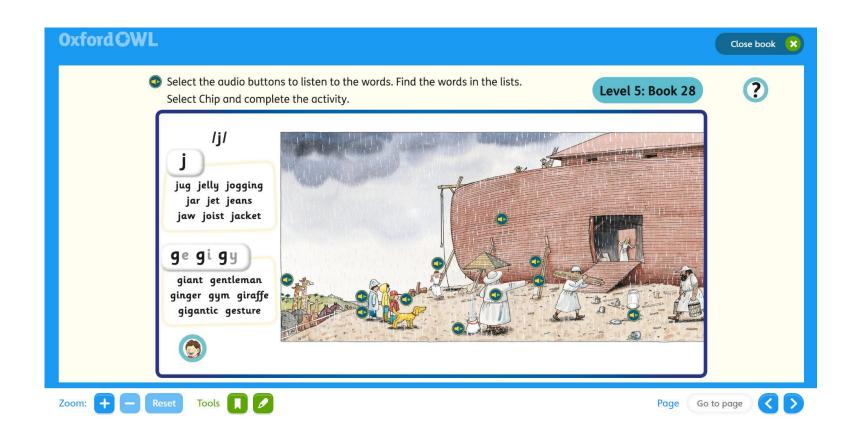




We see J or j and say /j/ at the beginning of words...

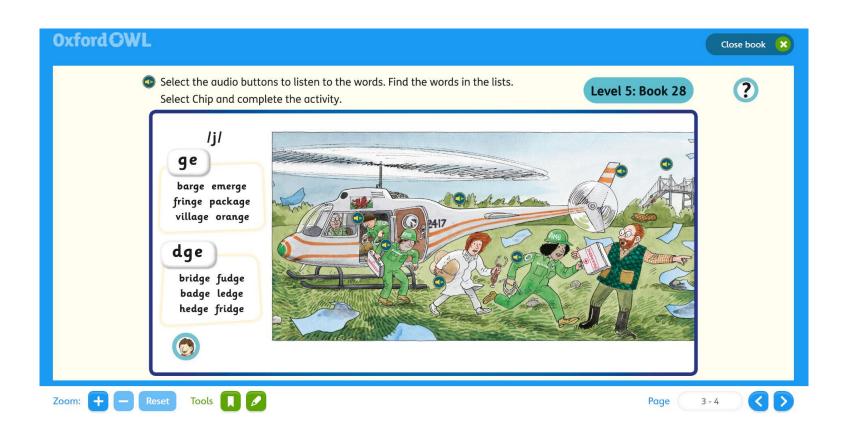


But what is the code when the sound /j/ is at the end of words? For reading, we see dge and we say /j/. We never see letter j at the end!



But wait a minute, some words which start with the sound /j/ don't always start with this letter: j Is there any code which alerts the reader to this?

# Handbooks: Pages 18 to 21 provide alphabetic code information for /j/



How do we know when to use this grapheme ['ge'] or this grapheme ['dge'] for spelling words which end with the sound /j/?

# Thank you for coming!

Please do approach us if you have any worries about your child's progress.

