

A Parent Guide to

# Phase 2 Phonics

For Ages 3 - 4

# What Is This Guide?

What do we mean by 'Phase 2 Phonics'? In the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in the ways they write and read. The method most widely used is called phonics. This guide can help you understand what development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down the phonics into its simple sections, providing you with explanations of what reading and writing might look like for your child at this stage of their learning. Each area has ideas for supporting your child fun and engaging activities, whether your child is only just beginning to recognise sounds within their environment or they are more curious about the sounds within words.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.

You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in physical development, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the Birth to 5 section.

## What is Phonics?

As your child starts their early years education, they will be taught phonics: the journey of learning to read, write and spell. These vital skills are the beginning of their lifelong learning journey in literacy. Phonics, which may also be referred to as 'Letters and Sounds', is the process of children learning to read and write.

## Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening are the first communication skills your child will develop before they begin their reading and writing journey. Encouraging lots of talk at home, as part of everyday life, will help support your child's own vocabulary and conversation skills. Explain what you are doing and ask them questions, making sure to wait for their response.

## Letters and Sounds

Letters (also referred to as graphemes) and sounds (which are referred to as phonemes) are taught in six phases throughout your child's early school education. During these phases, children learn how to listen carefully to identify the sounds they can hear within simple words and practice recognising and forming letters which make those spoken sounds.

Children develop rapidly in their first five years, more so than any other period of their young life. Although these guides have been divided by age band, we recognise that all children develop at different rates. This guide should not be used as a tick list of exactly what your child should be able to do at this age, but rather as an indicator of what they may be working towards.

# Phase 2 Phonics

Phase two is the second phase of phonics that will be taught to children, typically in a reception-level class. This phase builds upon the oral blending and segmenting skills that were learnt in phase one. Children will continue to practice these skills, whilst being introduced to the grapheme-phoneme (letters and sounds) representations for 19 letters. In addition, they will learn that some phonemes (sounds) can be represented by more than one grapheme (letter). For example, the sound 'f' is the same in **fin** and **huff**, though one has one letter and the other has two.

The 19 letters and their corresponding sounds are taught in a specific sequence. A set of sounds are taught to the children each week, building their grapheme and phoneme knowledge steadily and systematically.

Letters are often taught in this sequence:

Set 1	s , a , t , p
Set 2	i , n , m , d
Set 3	g , o , c , k
Set 4	ck , e , u , r
Set 5	h , b , f , ff , l , ll , ss

## VC and CVC Words

Once children begin to build a knowledge of grapheme-phoneme correspondence, (for example they know that the letter 'S' makes the sssss sound, like a snake), they will then be taught to read simple words containing the sounds and letters they have been taught.

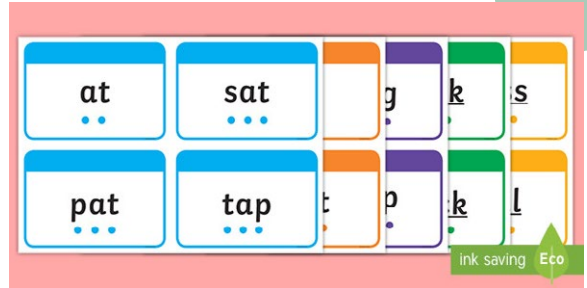
VC words are those that consist of a vowel and then a consonant (am, on, it). CVC words are those that consist of a consonant, then a vowel and then a consonant (cat, dog, pen). Some words such as bell are also CVC words because they only have three sounds. b-e-ll.

## Tricky Words

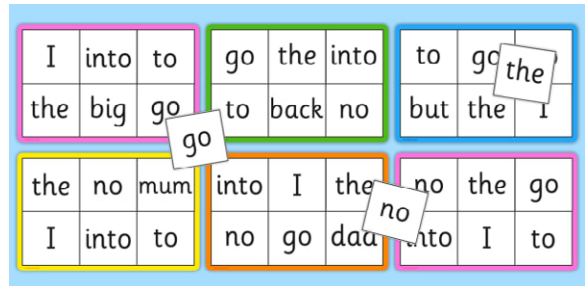
There are some written words in which the phoneme sounds your child is learning for each grapheme (letter) don't quite sound the same as normal. For example, the letter 'i' by itself (e.g. 'I went to bed') doesn't make the normal 'i' sound found in words like 'f-i-t', but sounds like the word 'eye'. Words that cannot be sounded out with normal phonic blending techniques are called 'tricky words' in school. Instead of sounding out, your child will eventually learn to recognise these words on sight.

# Phase 2 Phonics

How is your child progressing with their phonics skills?



Phase 2 Sound Button Word Cards



KS1 Phase 2 Tricky Word Bingo

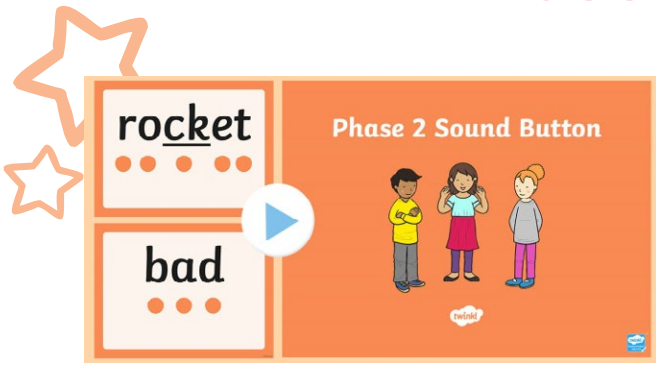
As your child develops a knowledge of letters and sounds, get them practicing their letter formation in interesting ways. Instead of paper and pencils, trace the letter shapes with your finger in a tray filled with sand, glitter, shaving foam or paint. These mark-making activities can help further support their fine motor development (small muscle movements).

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?

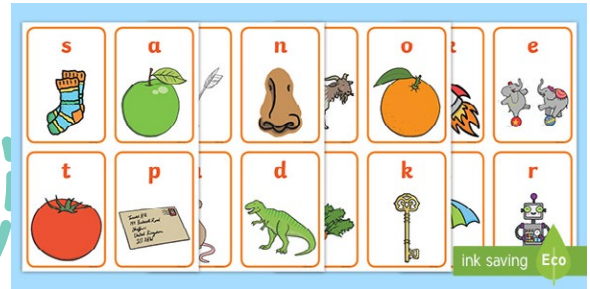


Phoneme Flash Cards for Phase 2 phonics

# Phase 2 Phonics



Phase 2 Sound Button PowerPoint



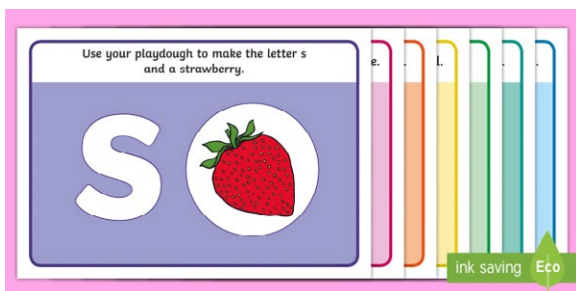
Phase 2 Flashcards

Read, read, read! Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to begin noticing new words and increase their vocabulary. At this stage in their development, you can read to them, but they may want to help with reading simple cv and cvc words that they have learnt at school.

Active phonics is a great way to engage learners who prefer to be outside doing big movements. Why not create a hopscotch outside, replacing numbers for the letters they have been learning at school? Or use paint brushes and buckets of water to do some letter formation on the floor outside?



Phase 2 Coloured Tricky Words on Stars



Phase 2 Phonics Playdough Mats

Magnetic letters are a really versatile resource that you can use at home to engage your child in phonics. Simply stick them on the fridge and see what silly words you can make up, or put them in the bath, pull out a letter and try to think of a word starting with that letter. Make a mini fishing rod with a paperclip at the end and go fishing for letters and sounds!



# Progress Page

It's always exciting to see progress in the way our children read and write. It's also important to remember memories and achievements. Use this page to record some of the special moments you've had with your little one while learning about phonics.

Journal nice moments  
or record key  
dates here:

Stick a photo of your child here:

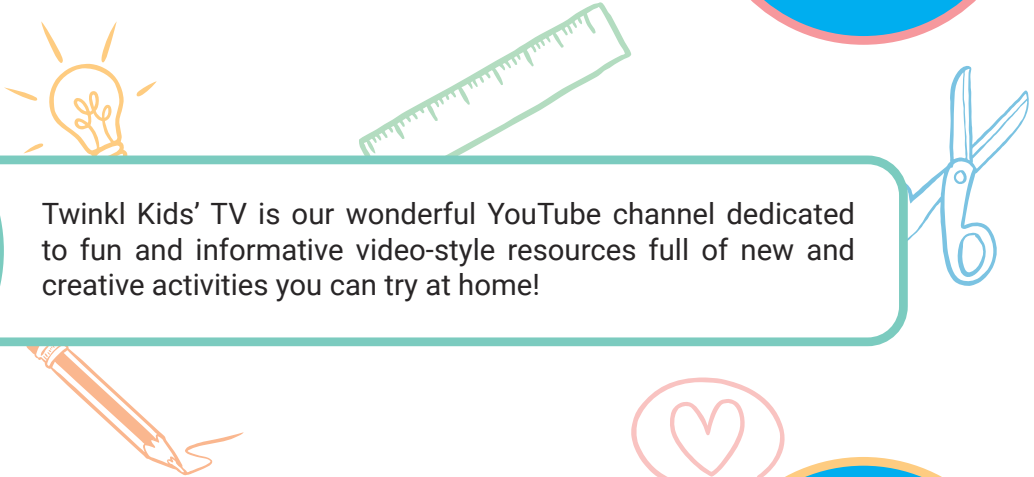
# Explore and Discover More



Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

