

Phase 1 Phonics Explained

In 2007 'Letters and Sounds' provided guidance on the teaching and learning of phonics. They created phases for children to progress through to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become fluent, confident, independent readers and writers. Phase 1 sets out the building blocks for learning to read and write. The main aim is for children to '*experience regular, planned opportunities to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do*'. (Letters and Sounds 2007)

Phase 1 lays the foundations for phonics in early years and beyond by targeting and developing both phonological and phonemic awareness. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.

Phase 1 is organised into seven different aspects:

Aspect 1 – Environmental Sounds - General Sound Discrimination

The aim of this aspect is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills.

Aspect 2 – Instrumental Sounds - General Sound Discrimination

This aspect aims to develop children's awareness of sounds made by various instruments and noise makers.

Aspect 3 – Body Percussion - General Sound Discrimination

The aim of this aspect is to develop children's awareness of body sounds and rhythms.

Aspect 4 – Rhythm and Rhyme

This aspect aims to develop children's appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech.

Aspect 5 – Alliteration

The focus is on the initial sounds of words.

Aspect 6 – Voice Sounds

The aim is to distinguish between different vocal sounds and to begin oral blending and segmenting.

Aspect 7 – Oral Blending and Segmenting

In this aspect, the main aim is to develop oral blending and segmenting skills. To practise oral blending, the teacher could say some sounds, such as /c/-/u/-/p/ and see whether the children can pick out a cup from a group of objects. For segmenting practise, the teacher could hold up an object such as a sock and ask the children which sounds they can hear in the word sock.

Each aspect is divided into three strands:

1. Tuning into sounds (auditory discrimination)
2. Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing)
3. Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension)

Overview of Activities

	Aspect 1 Environmental Sounds	Aspect 2 Instrumental Sounds	Aspect 3 Body Percussion	Aspect 4 Rhyme & Rhythm	Aspect 5 Alliteration	Aspect 6 Voice Sounds	Aspect 7 Oral Blending & Segmenting
1	Monster Phonics Land Lotto Game	Miss Oh No's Weather Forecast	Miss Oh No's Musical Movements	U-Hoo's Rhythm echo	Green Froggy's Hand Jive	Ghost's Castle	Tricky Witch's Broomstick - Blending
2	Black cat's Sound Walk	Black Cat's Favourite Tunes	Angry Red A Meets the Grand Old Duke of York	Clapping with the Monsters	Tickling Tongue Twisters	Shhh! Pass it on	Tricky Witch's Broomstick - Segmenting
3	Shopping with Miss Oh No	Angry Red A's Footsteps	Black Cat says...	Zooming through the Universe with U-Hoo	Cool Blue's Animal Alliteration	U-Hoo's Space Visit	Body Blending
4	Guess the Animals on the Farm with Cool Blue	Loud and Quiet Sounds with Brown Owl	Down in the Jungle	Tricky Witch's Rhyming Potions	Black Cats Name Game	The Wheels on the Bus	Tricky Witch's Magic Box - Blending
5	Monster Drumming with U-Hoo	Follow the Leader with Green Froggy	Five Little Speckled Green Froggies	Angry Red A's Rhyming Train Ride	Green Froggy's Classroom Tidy	Green Froggy visits Old MacDonald	Tricky Witch's Magic Box - Segmenting
6	Yellow I's Mystery Sounds	Cool Blue Visits the Zoo	Cool Blue has got the Moves	Hickory Dickory Dock	Monster Munchies	Miss Oh No's Voice Bingo	Robot Rob and the Monster Party
7	Homes	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	Yellow I is full of Happiness	Toys - Clap & Count with Angry Red A	Marvellous Magical Mixtures	The Enormous Turnip	Angry Red A's Farmyard Animals - Blending
8	Twinkle Twinkle - Night & Day Sounds	Cool Blue Keeps the Beat	Copy 'Black' Cats	Black Cats Ridiculous Rhymes	Sounds Around with Brown Owl	Trumpets!	Monster Number Plates
9	All Aboard	Monster Music Makers	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	Monster Rhyming Soup	Monster Musical Corners	The Little Red Hen	I Spy with Yellow I
10	Tricky Witch's Mysterious Places	The Monsters go to the Fair	Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush	The Black Cat's Rhyming Bingo	Angry Red A Explores Tongue Twisters	We're Going on a Monster Hunt	Green Froggy Leapfrogs the River

Pre-Phase 2

This optional Pre-Phase 2 Section can be used with children in Term 3 who have completed Phase 1 and are ready to recognise and say letter sounds.

Pre-Phase 2 in our Foundations Programme has a slower pace than Phase 2 teaching in Reception. Pre-Phase 2 covers only one letter each week. Lessons and resources are provided to teach the first 8 letters taught in Phase 2: s, a, t, p, i, n, m and d.

Overview example of weekly activities

Week 1 Letter 's'

Activity 1: Introduce the Sound

Introduce 's' using PowerPoint: story, mnemonic, action and song.

Activity 2: Initial Sound Identification

Recap sound, action and grapheme using mnemonic flashcard.

Silly Soup – initial sound sorting.

Activity 3: Grapheme Recognition & Formation

Recap recognition of grapheme with flashcard – sing the song together.

Practise grapheme recognition using the PowerPoint. Children to spot the Silent Ghost carrying the 's' grapheme.

Activity 4: Oral Blending

Practise oral blending with 's.'

Help Robot Rob find ingredients for Tricky Witch's Super Silly Soup.

Activity 5: Oral Segmenting

Practise oral segmenting with 's.'

Help Tricky Witch put away her silly soup ingredients into her sack.

Optional Weekly Focus Activity: Monster Sound Explorers

'Searching for 's'

Set up a sand tray with sand and additional glitter &/or sequins. Add small objects or pictures of objects with 's' sound and magnetic letters including 's.' Encourage the children to use sieves and spoons to find objects with the 's' sound and 's' magnetic letters.

