

Phonics and Early Reading Meeting



Today we will talk about...

- What 'Sounds Write' is.
- The order the sounds are taught in.
- How we teach phonics and reading in school.
- How you can help at home.



What is 'Sounds Write'?

- This is our second year of using 'Sounds Write' and we had great results last year!
- It is a scheme that is based on the sounds of speech- a skill that is acquired naturally by children.
- It is based on three key skills:
 - **Blending**- the ability to push sounds together e.g.- /c/ /a/ /t/ - cat
 - **Segmenting**- the ability to pull apart the individual sounds in words
e.g.- pig - /p/ /i/ /g/
 - **Phoneme manipulation**-the ability to insert sounds into and delete sounds out of words. This skill is necessary to test out alternatives for spellings that represent more than one sound.
e.g.- spelling <o>. Is it /o/ as in hot or /oe/ as in no?

What is 'Sounds Write'?

- Highly Structured
- Cumulative
- Reading and spelling are developed in parallel.
- Same language used throughout.



The scheme is highly structured and has a series of planned lessons that are delivered daily to the whole class. They can also be used with small groups as interventions for those children that need extra support.

The programme is cumulative so everything that is taught, builds on what has been learned previously and there are lots of opportunities to revisit and practice.

Reading and spelling are learned alongside each other from the very first lesson.

The lessons are scripted to ensure consistency in teaching across classes and across year groups. The scheme will follow this cohort of children up through the school and continues right up to year six.

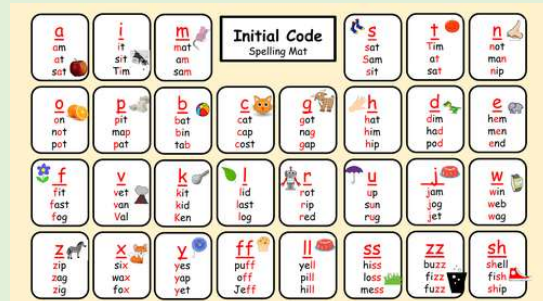
Slide 4

EH1

Emma Higson, 06/10/2024

Initial Code

- Mainly consists of single letter sounds and some simple two letter sounds – sh, ch, th, ng, qu, wh, le
- Some double consonants- ff, ll, ss and zz.
- Start reading and writing CVC words e.g. cat



A video on how to pronounce the sounds: [Alex saying the sounds Sounds-Write Initial Code \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Alex_saying_the_sounds_Sounds-Write_Initial_Code)

Remind parents that there is a breakdown of the order the sounds are introduced on their handout

We don't use letter names- only the sounds.

Slide 5

EH1

Emma Higson, 06/10/2024

How do we teach Sounds Write?

Some examples of some of the lessons we deliver in EYFS

- <https://www.yout-ube.com/watch?v=PHVHne036Rc> – Word Building
- <https://youtu.be/cZNX39WqEE4?si=kvgX2JXCzsX-DWk2&t=42> – Sound Swap

Point out consistency of language- 'say the sounds and read the word' etc.
Pronunciation of sounds.

Reading Books

- Children will be listened to at least once per week in school and books will be changed weekly.
- May or may not have words initially.
- Should match their phonics ability.



Library Books

- Each week, children will be able to choose a book to read for pleasure from our library collection.
- Not expected to read this independently, it is to be shared with an adult or even an older sibling.



How you can help at home with reading

- Listen to your child at least three times per week but ideally every day. It only needs to be 5-10 minutes to make a difference.
- Record that they have read in their reading diary.
- You don't have to read the whole book each time.

[Reading a decodable story with Max \(youtube.com\)](#)

Explain to parents that we can only hear children once per week so it is important that they listen to them as many times as possible at home. Remind them to record it in their child's reading record.

My child is too tired or doesn't want to read- what can I do?



This isn't uncommon! Our top tips are:

- Just read a couple of pages.
- Take it in turns to read a sentence each.
- Read the book to the child so they have more confidence to read it themselves.
- Play 'I spy' in the book- try to spot certain words or even individual sounds in the text.
- Try to make reading fun and not a chore. Sometimes bedtime is too late for your child to concentrate on reading.

The books are too easy for my child..

Once children are on to 'Sounds Write' books we send home books that are 2 units behind phonics unit that we are working at in school or that your child is confident with.

- We are looking for 95% accuracy.
- Children's fluency should be developing at that level- not reading like a robot.
- Understanding of what they have read is key- not just decoding but comprehension is needed too.

Sounds-Write parents resources

Help your child to read and write

Our free course for parents and carers will help you get your child off to a good start!

The course will show you how to:

- help your child take their first steps in reading and spelling
- understand how to help your child build, write and read simple cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words
- understand how to correct your child when they make a mistake in their reading or writing simple words
- have a basic understanding of how phonics works

[JOIN THE COURSE NOW >](#)



[Support for Parents and Carers - Sounds-Write](#)

The Sounds-Write iPad App

The Sounds-Write app will help your child to learn the spellings in the Initial Code and will enable them to practise the skills of blending and segmenting, as well as reading and writing words and sentences.

The app is available on the Apple App Store (**for use on iPads only**). The free version of the app provides a sample of activities, with the full version available as an in-app purchase.



First Steps collection

The First Steps Collection is perfect for your child as they take their first steps into reading.

The simple, decodable texts enable children to practice the skills and code knowledge they are learning. The simple sentence structures and short word counts will help children practice reading without overloading them and they'll enjoy having success!

The Initial Code books are quirky stories about children and their unusual pets. The Extend Code is based on children and their hobbies.



**Free Initial Code First Step
e-book collection**

[DOWNLOAD NOW >](#)



**Free Extended Code First Steps
e-book collection**

[DOWNLOAD NOW >](#)

Links for these resources will be shared on the website and on Tapestry.

Any questions?

Feel free to ask now, catch us after the meeting or on the door if you think of anything after the meeting.

Thank you so much for
coming, we hope it has
been helpful.

