

Phonic terms

Phoneme

A phoneme is the sound that a letter or group of letters makes in a word—**ch ur ch p e n**

Grapheme

A grapheme is what a sound looks like when written down:

e.g. **r ai n p l ay g a t e**

Digraph

Two letters that make one sound—**ai ee oa ue er ch**

Blend

Blending is putting together the individual sounds to make a word—**f i sh i ng** is fishing

Split digraph

e.g. **c a k e l i k e h o l e t u b e**

Segment

Segment is stretching a word up into its phonemes or sounds **t-a-p sh-e-d**

Activities to try at home

Sound box— fill a shoe box with objects or words to sort

Buried treasure— sort real words from fake words

Flash cards— write sounds and words on pieces of Paper and practice with your child

Robot voices: blend and segment words using a robot voice



Help your child with Phonics



Sounds and actions (initially learned phonemes—Reception)

- s** Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say *ssssss*
- a** Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you and say *a, a, a*.
- t** Turn head from side to side as if watching tennis and say *t,t,t*.
- i** Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling fingers at end of nose and squeak *i, i, i*.
- p** Pretend to puff out candles and say *p, p, p*.
- n** Make a noise, as if you are a plane - hold arms out and say *nnnnn*.
- ck** Raise hands and snap fingers as if playing castanets and say *ck, ck, ck*.
- e** Pretend to hold an egg on the side of a pan and crack it into the pan, saying *eh, eh, eh*.
- h** Hold hand in front of mouth panting as if you are out of breath and say *h, h, h*.
- r** Pretend to be a puppy holding a piece of rag, shaking head from side to side, and say *rrrrr*.
- m** Rub tummy as if seeing tasty food and say *mmmmm*.
- d** Beat hands up and down as if playing a drum and say *d, d, d*.
- g** Spiral hand down, as if water going down the drain, and say *g, g*.
- o** Pretend to turn light switch on and off and say *o, o, o, o*
- u** Pretend to be putting up an umbrella and say *u, u, u*.
- l** Pretend to lick a lollipop and say *lllll*.
- f** Let hands gently come together as if toy fish deflating, and say *fffff*.
- b** Pretend to hit a ball with a bat and say *b, b, b*.
- j** Pretend to wobble on a plate and say *j, j, j*.
- z** Put arms out at sides and pretend to be a bee, saying *zzzz*.

- w** Blow on to open hand, as if you are the wind, and say *wh, wh, wh*.
- v** Pretend to be holding the steering wheel of a van and say *vvvvv*.
- y** Pretend to be eating a yogurt and say *y, y, y*.
- x** Pretend to take an x-ray of someone with an x-ray camera and say *ks, ks, ks*.

Graphemes (Reception/Year 1)

- ng** Imagine you are a weightlifter, and pretend to lift a heavy weight above your head, saying *ng...*
- oo oo** Move head back and forth as if it is the cuckoo in a cuckoo clock, saying *u, oo; u, oo*. (Little and long oo.)
- ch** Move arms at sides as if you are a train and say *ch,ch,ch*.
- sh** Place index finger over lips and say *shshsh*.
- th** Put up thumbs and say *ththth*.
- ue** Point to people around you and say *you, you, you*.
- ee or** Put hands on head as if ears on a donkey and say *ee* (hands up) and *or* (hands down).
- ou** Pretend your finger is a needle and prick thumb saying *ou, ou, ou*.
- er** Roll hands over each other like a mixer and say *er er er*.
- ai** Cup hand over ear and say *ai, ai, ai*.
- oa** Bring hand over mouth as if you have done something wrong and say *oh!*

Further Graphemes (Year 1)

These are the written forms of the phonemes already learned and we use the same actions as previously.

ai ay a-e
ie igh y i-e
ee ea

oa ow o-e
ue ew u-e
or aw al au

er ir ur
ou ow
oi oy