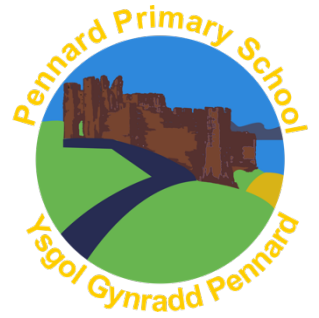


Learning Letter Sounds



A Parent's Guide to Read, Write Inc.



Dream, Believe, Achieve Together

Who is Read Write Inc. for?

The Read Write Inc. programme is for primary school children learning to read. It enables **every child** to become a confident and fluent reader **at the first attempt**.



Using this method:

- Children in the early years learn to read confidently and fluently.
- Older children with reading difficulties make fast progress.
- Children with specific learning difficulties learn to read. The Read Write Inc. programme is also used with great success to support children of all ages who have been designated as dyslexic.

The reading is guided from the very beginning to help the children become confident and fluent readers (the first time they learn).

How and what do the children learn during RWI?

READING

The children:

- learn 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using sound blending
- read lively stories featuring words they have learned to sound out
- show that they comprehend the stories by answering 'Find It' and 'Prove It' discussion questions

WRITING

The children:

- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds
- learn to write words by saying the sounds and graphemes
- write simple sentences
- compose stories based on picture strips
- compose a range of texts using discussion prompts

TALKING

Children are assessed so they work with children at the same level. This allows them to take a full part in all lessons.

They work in pairs so that they:

- answer every question
- practise every activity with their partner
- take turns in talking to each other

How can I help my child learn to read?

Take a look at our guide '**Helping your child read**' available on our website for more tips and ideas. Read as many stories to your child as you can. Talk about the stories. Explain the meaning of new words. Most importantly though, show the fun that can be gained by listening to stories. What you read to your child today, he will be able to read for himself very soon.

The following information will help you understand how we use Read, Write Inc. to support children in learning to read.

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Step 1: Help your child to learn Speed Sounds Set 1

Before you start to teach your child, practise saying the sounds below. These are the sounds we use to speak in English.

We use pure sounds ('m' not 'muh', 's' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily. At school we use a puppet called Fred who can do this beautifully! When we say words in sounds we call it 'Fred Talk', e.g. d-o-g, c-a-t, m-a-n, sh-o-p, c-l-a-p.

If your child's class teacher has been trained in the programme she can show you how to pronounce these sounds.

Please do not use letter names at this early stage.

These first sounds should all be stretched slightly. Try to avoid saying **uh** after each one.:
e.g. **mm** - not muh, **ss** - not suh, **ff**- not fuh.

m – **mmmmmmountain** (keep lips pressed together hard)

s – **sssssnake** (keep teeth together and hiss – unvoiced)

n – **nnnnnet** (keep tongue behind teeth)

f – **ffffflower** (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply – unvoiced)

l – **llllleg** (keep pointed curled tongue behind teeth).

r – **rrrrrobot** (say rrr as if you are growling)

v – **vvvvvulture** (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out gently)

z – **zzzzzig zzzzag** (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound)

th – **thhhhank you** (stick out tongue and breathe out sharply)

sh – **shhhh** (make a shhh noise as though you are telling somebody to be quiet!)

ng – **thinnnngg on a strinnnngg** (curl your tongue at the back of your throat)

nk – **I think I stink** (make a piggy oink noise without the oi! nk nk nk)

These next sounds cannot be stretched. Make the sound as short as possible avoiding **uh** at the end of the sound:

t (tick tongue behind the teeth – unvoiced)

p (make distinctive p with lips – unvoiced)

k (make sharp click at back of throat)

c as above

h (say h as you breathe sharply out – unvoiced)

ch (make a short sneezing sound)

x (say a sharp c and add s – unvoiced)

You will find it harder to avoid saying uh at the end of these sounds.

d (tap tongue behind the teeth).

g (make soft sound in throat).

b (make a short, strong b with lips).

j (push lips forward).

y (keep edges of tongue against teeth).

w (keep lips tightly pursed).

qu (keep lips pursed as you say cw – unvoiced).



The short vowels should be kept short and sharp:

a: a-a-a (open mouth wide as if to take a bite of an apple).

e: e-e-e (release mouth slightly from a position).

i: i-i-i (make a sharp sound at the back of the throat – smile).

o: o-o-o (push out lips, make the mouth into o shape).

u: u-u-u (make a sound in the throat).

The long vowel sounds are all stretchy sounds

ay: ay may I play

ee: ee what do you see?

igh: fly high

ow: blow the snow

oo: poo at the zoo

oo: look at a book

ar: start the car

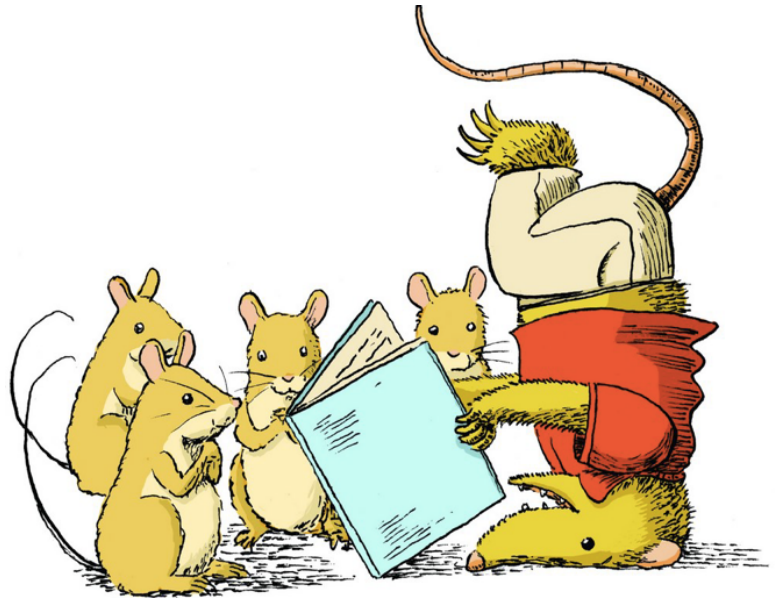
or: shut the door

air: that's not fair

ir: whirl and twirl

ou: shout it out

oy: toy for a boy



Use these activities to teach your child

You will need a pack of Set 1 Speed Sound cards.

Before children read the Storybooks, they are taught to read Set 1 Speed Sound Cards.

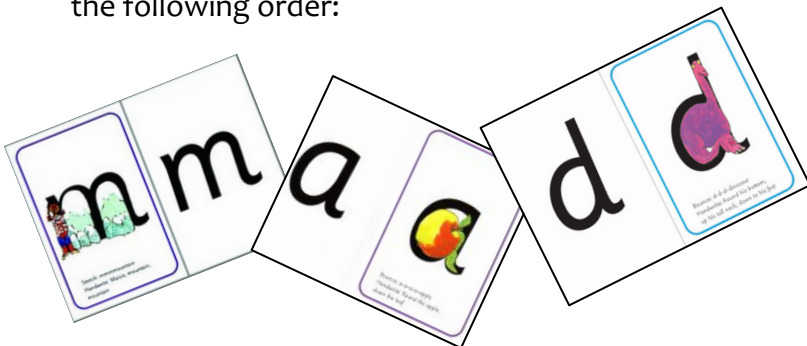
Letter-sound pictures are used to help children learn these sounds quickly.

e.g.

sssnake is morphed into s

d-d-d-dinosaur is morphed into d

The children are taught the Set 1 Speed Sound cards in the following order:



m a s d t
i n p g o
c k u b f
e l h s h r
j v y w t h
z ch qu x ng nk

Please remember that children learn more rapidly if they are constantly praised

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Speed Sound Games

Activity 1: Speed Sound cards – picture side

Spread 5-10 cards out, picture side up. Say the name of each picture together. Ask your child to touch each card repeating the above. Increase the speed.

Activity 2: Speed Sound cards – picture side

Spread the same 5–10 cards out, picture side up. Say the name of each picture together, but this time bounce or stretch the beginning sound. (Look on the card to check which to do.) Ask your child to touch each card repeating the above. Increase the speed.

Activity 3: Speed Sound cards – letter side

Spread out the same 5-10 cards, letter side up. Say a sound, either stretching or bouncing it. See how quickly your child can point to the corresponding card.

Activity 4: Speed Sound cards – letter side

Spread out the same 5-10 cards, letter side up. Say a sound – no bouncing or stretching. See how quickly your child can point to the card. Now point to the card and ask your child to say the sound.

Activity 5: Speed Sound pack

Ask your child to decide the cards he wants to put in a ‘Speed Sound’ pack (the sounds that are known really well). Encourage your child to read these at speed, getting quicker and quicker. Try to increase the number of cards in the ‘Speed Sound’ pack until your child can read all 31 sounds quickly.

Activity 6: Word clue

Spread out the same 5-10 cards, letter side up. Say, for example, ‘monster, mirror, mouth’. (Emphasise the first sound.) See how quickly your child can say the first sound and then find the card.

Take a look at our other guides for further information:

[Learning Letter Sounds](#)

[Learning Key Words](#)

Our website also has lots of useful information. The speed sound cards are available for purchase from the school office.

<https://pennardprimary.co.uk/>

