

Phonics in Reception

Phase 4

Before starting Phase 4 your child will:

- know most of the **Phase 2** and **Phase 3** graphemes
Phase 2 – s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss
Phase 3 – j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er
- blend phonemes to read CVC words and segment CVC words for spelling.
- begin reading simple two-syllable words and simple captions.
- know letter names and be able to read and spell some tricky words.

Glossary

Phoneme – a single sound that can be made by one or more letters.

Grapheme – written letters which represent a sound.

Blending – saying the individual sounds then merging them together to read the word.

Segmenting – Splitting a word up into individual sounds to help with spelling.

CVC words – a word that is made up of a consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. cat, shop or boat.

What will my child be taught during Phase 4?

There are no new graphemes in Phase 4 but don't be tempted to miss this phase out and jump straight to Phase 5. Your child will consolidate Phase 2/3 graphemes as they learn to read and spell longer words containing adjacent consonants and words with more than one syllable.

Your child will learn to read:

CVCC words e.g. camp

CCVC words e.g. flag

CCVCC words e.g. twist

Phase 4 is usually taught during the summer term in Reception but some schools may teach it at the start of Year 1.

What is an adjacent consonant?

An adjacent consonant is not a digraph. In a digraph the two consonants work together to make a new sound e.g. sh. Adjacent consonants are where two consonants are next to each other but make their own individual sound e.g. milk. Your child may find it difficult to hear both consonants to begin with and may miss one out when spelling e.g. writing wet for went.

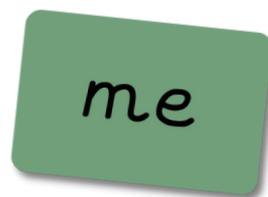
They are sometimes referred to as consonant blends which is a cluster of letters commonly found in words e.g. str. We don't need children to learn to recognise the blends as they do with digraphs because Phase 4 words are made of sounds they already know! Learning to remember consonant blends vastly increases what your child will need to remember and recall. Instead, we should focus on the skills of hearing the individual sounds in the words so that your child can read and spell longer words.

Phase 4 High Frequency Words:

During Phase 4 your child will learn to spell the tricky words from Phase 3. These are words that cannot be sounded out. Your child will learn to read Phase 4 tricky words and high-frequency words. High-frequency words can be sounded out but are seen often in text so learning them by sight helps children to read more fluently.



Phase 3 tricky words have a green background.



Phase 4 tricky words have a pink background. Phase 4 high-frequency words have a pink stripe.



How can I support my child?

You could try some of the suggested activities in MWC [Phonics Club](#). There are some specific Phase 4 activities but many of the Phase 3 activities can be adapted and examples of Phase 4 words are included in the blog posts.

If your child is finding it tricky to hear the individual sounds in the word, revise some of the Phase 1 activities or try some of the activities from the [Pre-Readers Club](#).

Phase 4 Words:

These words are examples of Phase 4 words. Your child does not need to learn these words by sight. I have shared them so you can select words as needed for an activity.

C - consonant (including consonant digraphs e.g. sh)
V - vowel (including vowel digraphs e.g. ai)

CVCC Words:

tent, belt, dent, wind, land, best, lost, camp, next, melt, gift, jump, lift, land

Words using Phase 3 graphemes: chimp, roast, thank, paint, toast, think, bench

Polysyllabic Words: children, sandpit, lunchbox, sandwich, pondweed, melting

CCVC Words:

from, spot, step, plan, trip, track, spin, flag, swim, drop, clap, frog, grip

Words using Phase 3 graphemes: green, smell, sport, start, crash, swing

Polysyllabic Words: starlight, floating, treetop

CCVCC, CCCVC and CCCVCC Words:

crisp, twist, frost, stamp, crust, blend, spend, stand, blink

Words using Phase 3 graphemes: crnch, shrink, spring, street, scrnch

Polysyllabic Words: driftwood, twisting, printer