

A Parent Guide to

Phase 4 Phonics

For Ages 4 - 5

What Is This Guide?

What do we mean by 'Phase 4 Phonics'? In the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in the ways they write and read. The method most widely used is called phonics. This guide can help you to understand what development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down phonics into simple sections, providing you with explanations of what reading and writing might look like for your child at this stage of their learning. Each area provides ideas for supporting your child with fun and engaging activities, whether your child is beginning to form letters more frequently or they are becoming more confident in reading simple words.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.

You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in physical development, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the Early Years section.

What is Phonics?

As your child starts their early years education, they will be taught phonics; the journey of learning to read, write and spell. These vital skills are the beginning of their lifelong learning journey in literacy. Phonics, which may also be referred to as 'Letters and Sounds', is the process of children learning to read and write.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening are the first communication skills your child will develop before they begin their reading and writing journey. Encouraging lots of talk at home, as part of everyday life, will help support your child's own vocabulary and conversation skills. Explain what you are doing and ask them questions, making sure to wait for their response.

Letters and Sounds

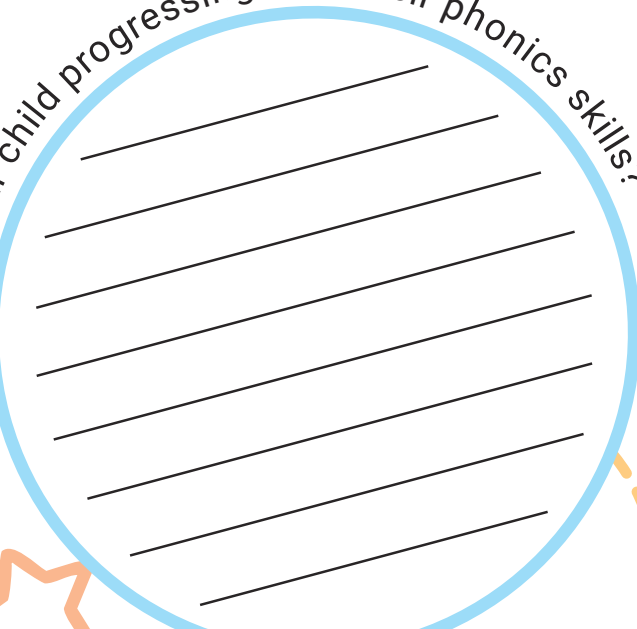
Letters (also referred to as graphemes) and sounds (which are referred to as phonemes) are taught in six phases throughout your child's early school education. During these phases, children learn how to listen carefully to identify the sounds they can hear within simple words and practice recognising and forming letters which make those spoken sounds.

Children develop rapidly in their first five years, more so than any other period of their young life. Although these guides have been divided by age band, we recognise that all children develop at different rates. This guide should not be used as a tick list of exactly what your child should be able to do at this age, but rather as an indicator of what they may be working towards.

Phase 4 Phonics

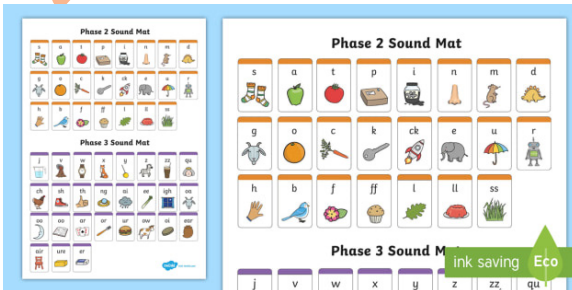

Most children will progress to Phase 4 of the Letters and Sounds phonics programme towards the end of their reception year and into year 1. Phase 4 focuses on consolidating and practising the letter sounds learnt so far and does not introduce any new sounds. During Phase 4, children will continue to practise the letter sounds (phonemes) they learnt in Phase 2 and Phase 3. They will practise instant recall of these sounds as well as blending them together to read words. Alongside this, children will practise writing sounds correctly and segmenting words into sounds in order to spell them correctly.

How is your child progressing with their phonics skills?



As your child learns more about 'alien' or 'nonsense' words, you could challenge them to draw or make an alien using play dough then see who can come up with the silliest name, using the letters they've learnt so far and further practice their writing skills.

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Combined Phase 2 & 3 Sound Mats

Alien Words

In this phase, children will continue to learn 'alien words', also sometimes known as 'nonsense words'. These are words that test children's ability to use phonics, rather than word memory, as the prime method of reading words. Examples might be 'thord', 'stip' or 'josk'. Alien words form part of the Phonics Screening Check taken at the end of year 1.

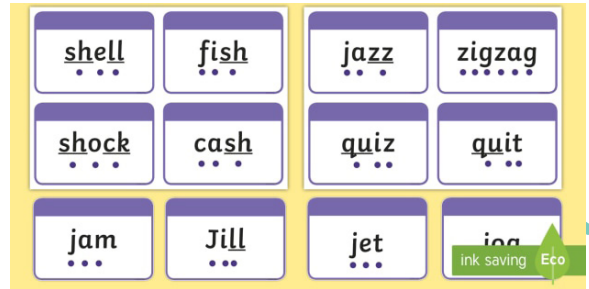


Level 3 Phonics Matching Bingo Game

Phase 4 Phonics



Phonics Screening Galaxy Game



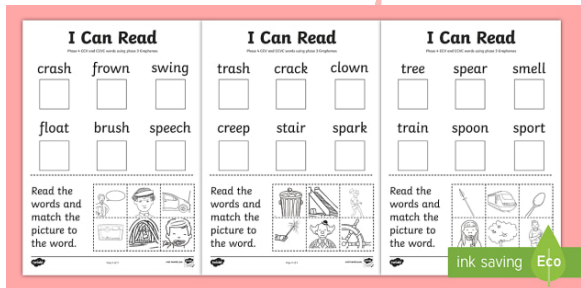
Phase 3 Words - Sound Button Word Cards

Read, Read, Read!

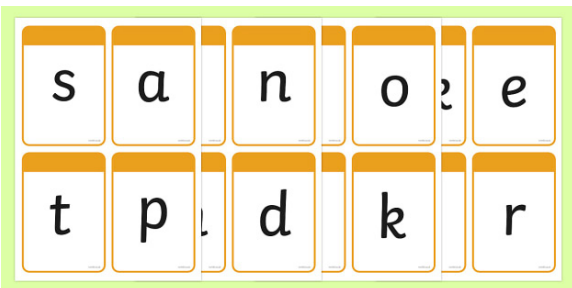
Keep reading with your child every day. Let them read to you but also make sure that you are reading more complex books to them and that they are continuing to hear stories and other texts read aloud with intonation (using your voice in different ways to create characters).

CCVC and CVCC Words

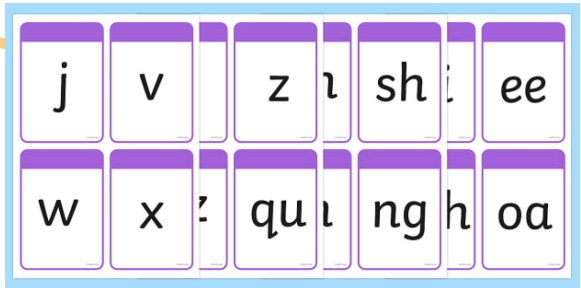
Children will progress to reading so-called 'CCVC' and 'CVCC' words. 'C' stands for consonant and 'V' for vowel, so whereas children so far have looked at 'CVC' words such as 'bat', 'dog' and 'pen', they will now learn to sound out and blend longer words such as 'stop' (CCVC), 'clap' (CCVC), 'desk' (CVCC) and 'hand' (CVCC).



I Can Read! Phase 4 CCV and CCVC Words Using Phase 3 Graphemes Worksheet



Phoneme Flash Cards for Phase 2 Phonics

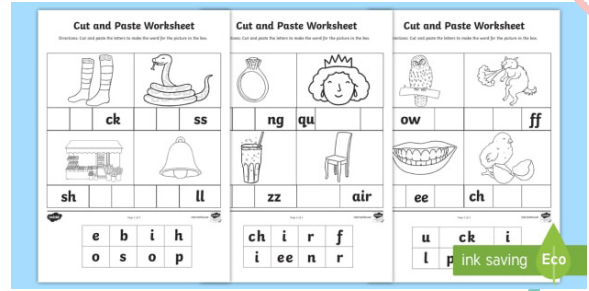
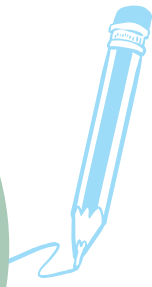


Initial Sound Picture Square Peg Labels

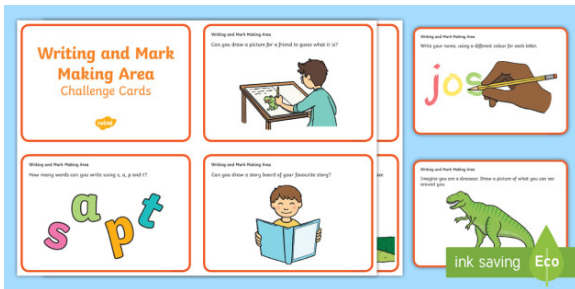
Phase 4 Phonics



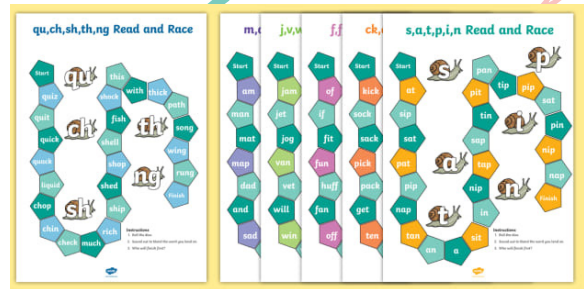
As your child begins to build up a bank of high frequency words and tricky words, why not make your own flashcards to practice recognising and reading these words by sight or at a faster pace? Turn this into a game by seeing how many your child can read in one minute or 30 seconds.



Phase 2 and 3 Sounds Cut and Paste Worksheet



Writing And Mark Making Area Challenge Cards

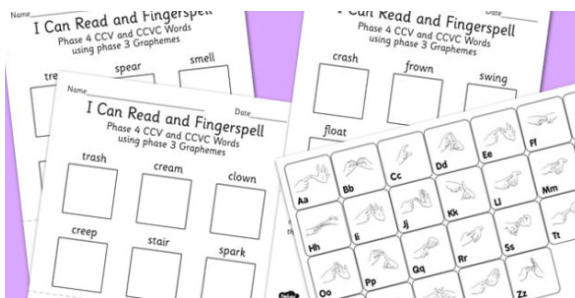


Pack 2 & 3 Phonics Read and Race Game Bumper Activity Pack

Play a game of I Spy together, further reinforcing the sounds learnt during Phases 2 and 3. I Spy is a perfect five minute filler to do anywhere; in the car, on the bus, during breakfast or while queuing somewhere. Challenge your child by saying 'something ending with...' rather than 'something beginning with...'



High Frequency and Tricky Words
 During Phase 4, children will revise previously taught 'high frequency words'. High frequency words, as the name suggests, are words that we see frequently when reading and writing. Children can read high frequency words much more fluently if they know these words by sight. Some of them can be sounded out, e.g. 'and' or 'it', but others cannot, e.g. 'my' or 'all', and are therefore 'tricky words.' Children are taught to read a new set of these words during Phase 4.



I Can Read and Fingerspell! Phase 4 CCV and CCVC Words Using Phase 3 Graphemes Worksheet Pack

Progress Page

It's always exciting to see progress in the way our children read and write. It's also important to remember special memories and achievements, even if they can't be ticked off from a learning checklist. Use this page to record some of the special moments you've had with your little one while learning about phonics.

Journal nice moments
or record key
dates here:

Stick a photo of your child here:

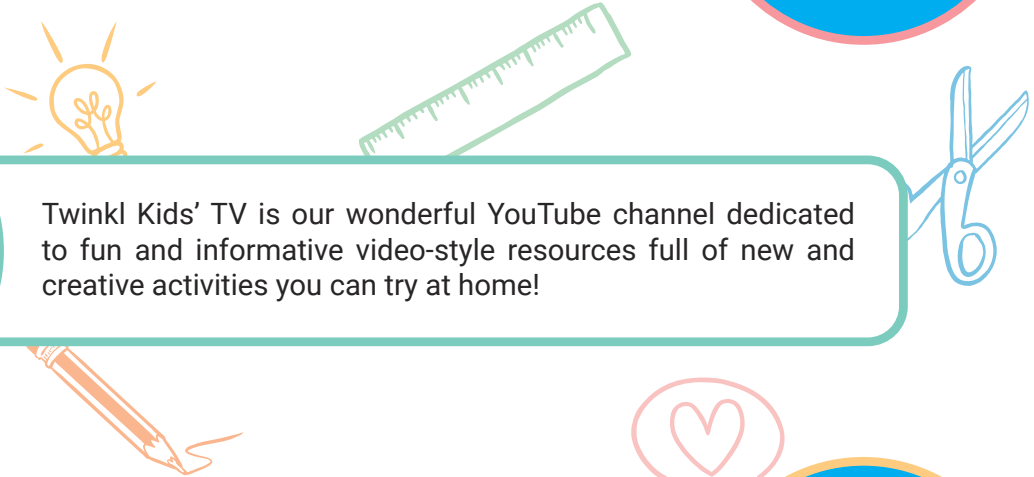
Explore and Discover More



Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

