

Glossary



Key terms we use in our teaching:

GPC: Short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence- Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme (written representation) and vice versa

Digraph – two letters make one sound (e.g.sh, ch, ai, ea, ou, ow).

Trigraph – three letters make one sound (e.g.igh, ear, air, ure).

Split digraph – two letters make one sound but the letters have been split apart by another letter. (e.g. the a - e sound in cape)

Phoneme – a single unit of sound

Grapheme – a written letter, or group of letters that represent a sound.

Consonants – b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y, z

Tricky Words (high-frequency words)- Words that we can not sound out: words that are not phonically decodable (e.g 'the', to')

Sound Buttons-Sound buttons These are marks (dots and lines) that are added under letters in words to help children to blend and read the words. A dot (round sound button) is placed under each letter in a word. A short line (long sound button) is used when two letters represent one sound, as in the word 'pick' below. Children are encouraged to touch each button in turn and 'say the sound', then blend the sounds together to say the word.



Blend(ing)– to put or merge the sounds together to make a word (e.g. the sounds d-o-g are blended to the word 'dog'.)

Segment(ing) – to break down the word into its individual sounds to spell (e.g cat can be split into the sounds c-a-t.).

Sound talk – a method of segmenting words, saying each sound on a finger or using robot hands.

Adjacent consonants- Adjacent consonants are 2 or more consonants that are next to each other in a word. For example in the word 'lost' the 's' and 't' are adjacent consonants

Decoding - To translate printed words to sounds or words for reading

CVC word - Consonant - Vowel - Consonant (cat)

CCVC word - Consonant - Consonant - Vowel - Consonant (pram)

Suffix(es) - a unit of letters such as 'ed' 'ing' that are added to a word to change its meaning e.g.play'ed'

Prefix(es)- A prefix is a letter or group of letters, for example 'un-' or 'multi-', which is added to the beginning of a word in order to form a different word. For example, the prefix 'un-' is added to 'happy' to form 'unhappy'.

