



Understanding Phonics

Shepton Mallet Infants' School
and Nursery
8th March 2017

6.00pm- 7.30pm



The way that spelling and reading is taught in schools is now based around **Phonics**.



What is phonics?

Phonics is...

Skills of
segmentation and
blending



Knowledge
of the
alphabetic
code.



Phonics consists of:

- Identifying sounds in spoken words.
- Recognising the common spellings of each sound.
- Blending the sounds into words for reading.
- Segmenting the words into sounds for spelling.



Key Concepts



Sounds (phonemes) are represented by letters (graphemes)

English is an alphabetic language - unlike Chinese, for example, where whole words are represented by characters.

A phoneme can be represented by one letter (grapheme) or by a group of 2 or more letters.

s, a, t, p sh, igh, oa

The same sound (phoneme) can be represented (spelt) more than one way.

cat
kennel
Choir

The same grapheme (spelling) may represent more than one phoneme

mean - deaf
crown - flown
field - tried



Key Skills



Reading-Blending

Merging phonemes together to pronounce a word

In order to read an unfamiliar word, a child must link a phoneme to each letter or letter combination in the word, and then merge them together to pronounce the word.

c a t = **cat**

Spelling-Segmentation

Hearing individual phonemes with a word.

In order to spell, a child must segment a word into its phonemes and choose a letter or letter combination to represent the phonemes.

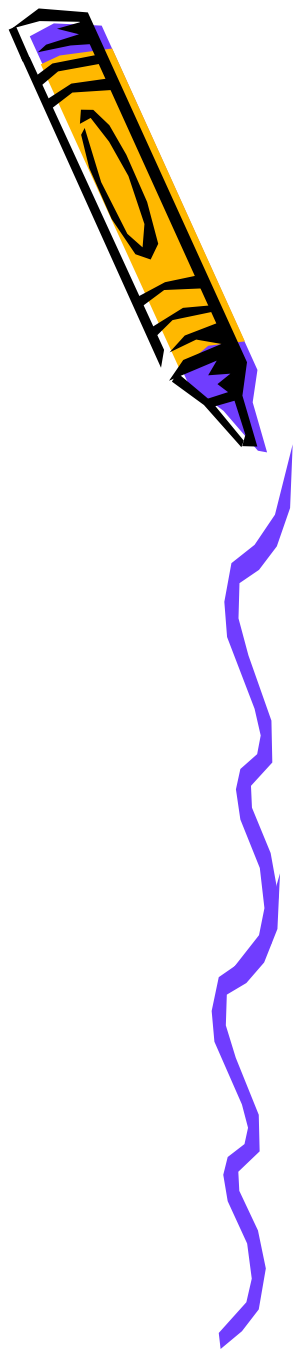
crash has 4 phonemes - c-r-a-sh



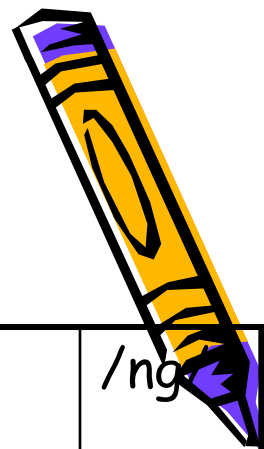
Phonemes












































The units of sound in a word.

There are 44 phonemes in English.



The 44 Phonemes



/b/	/d/	/f/	/g/	/h/	/j/	/c/k	/l/	/m/	/n/	/ng/
										
/p/	/r/	/s/	/t/	/v/	/w/	/y/	/z/	/th/	/th/	/ch/
										
/sh/	/zh/	/a/	/e/	/i/	/o/	/u/	/ae/	/ee/	/ie/	/oe/
										
/ue/	/oo/	/ar/	/ur/	/au/	/er/	/ow/	/oi/	/air/	/ear/	/ure/
										



Grapheme

Letters representing a phoneme

c ai igh

Children need to practise
recognising the grapheme and
saying the phoneme that it
represents.



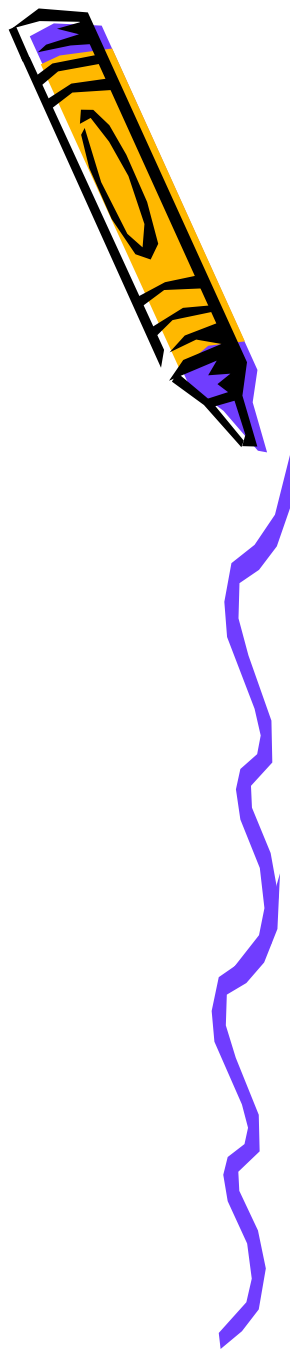
Blending

- Recognising the letter sounds in a written word using FRED TALK

c-u-p

and merging or 'blending' them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word

cup

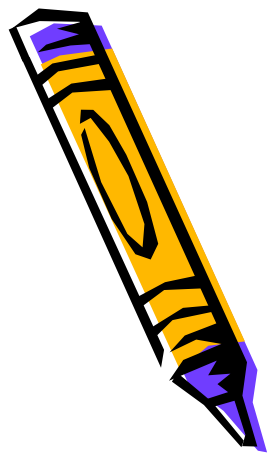


Segmenting

- 'Chopping Up' the word to spell it out using FRED TALK

cat= c a t

- The opposite of blending



Once children are good with
single phonemes...

- DIGRAPHS - 2 letters that make 1
sound

sh ch oa ai

- TRIGRAPHS - 3 letters that make 1
sound

igh air



Segmenting Activity



- FRED TALK each word to say how many phonemes each has.

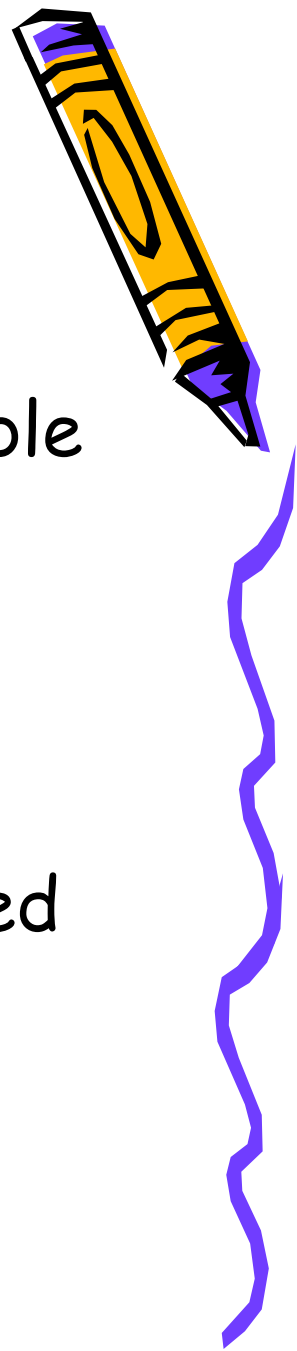
- shelf
- dress
- sprint
- string



Did you get it right?

- shelf = sh - e - l - f = 4 phonemes
- dress = d - r - e - ss = 4 phonemes
- sprint = s - p - r - i - n - t = 6 phonemes
- string = s - t - r - i - ng = 5 phonemes





Tricky Words-Keywords

- Words that are not phonically decodeable

was, the, I

- Some are 'tricky' to start with but will become decodeable once we have learned the harder phonemes

out, there



Now you have the knowledge....



- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- Ask your child's teacher if you want to know more.



Useful websites

- www.parentsintouch.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents
- www.jollylearning.co.uk/
- www.focusonphonics.co.uk/
- www.syntheticphonics.com

