



A Guide to Phonics and the Year 1 National Curriculum

The ACET Scheme suggests that children in Year 1 should be completing phase 5 phonics. Through learning phonics, your child is working towards meeting the key stage 1 English requirements for reading and spelling as stated in the national Curriculum.

By the end of year 1 your child should use their phonics knowledge to be able to:

- apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words
- respond speedily with the correct sound to graphemes (letters or groups of letters) for all 40+ phonemes, including, where applicable, alternative sounds for graphemes
- read accurately by blending sounds in unfamiliar words containing GPCs that have been taught
- read common exception words, noting unusual correspondences between spelling and sound and where these occur in the word
- read words containing taught GPCs and -s, -es, -ing, -ed, -er and -est endings
- read other words of more than one syllable that contain taught GPCs
- read words with contractions [for example, I'm, I'll, we'll], and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s)
- read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words
- re-read these books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading
- spell words containing each of the 40+ phonemes already taught, common exception words and the days of the week
- name the letters of the alphabet in order and use letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound
- add suffixes using the spelling rule for adding -s or -es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs
- use the prefix un-
- add suffixes using -ing, -ed, -er and -est where no change is needed in the spelling of root words [for example, helping, helped, helper, eating, quicker, quickest]
- apply simple spelling rules and guidance, as listed in English Appendix 1
- write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far
- sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly
- begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place
- form capital letters.