

Dear Parents/Carers,

Learning to read: supporting your child at home

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will develop over the next few years. The more support and encouragement that you can offer your child, the more likely it is that he or she will make good progress.

At school we are using the *Oxford Reading Tree* series to take your child through the early stages of learning to read. We are using the *Floppy's Phonics* teaching programme, which is a step-by-step phonics reading scheme. It introduces the children to the letters and sounds (the alphabetic code) that are at the foundation of all reading and writing.

To reinforce the teaching in school, your child may bring home some books to share with you. These may be:

- *Floppy's Phonics Sounds Books*, to practise the sounds and letters taught at school
- *Floppy's Phonics* decodable readers to practise reading stories and different text types.

All the books have notes on the inside cover to guide you on how to share them with your child.

Series created by Roderick Hunt and Alex Brychta
Written by Debbie Hepplewhite

Once children have learned all of the sounds in Level 1+ they can go on to read the Level 1+ *Floppy's Phonics* decodable readers.

USING THIS BOOK TOGETHER:

- 1 Say the letter sound together, e.g. say "g".
- 2 Ask your child to finger-trace the letter shapes and say the sound.
- 3 Ask your child to point to the key picture and say the word, e.g. "g. gate".
- 4 Ask your child to sound out and blend the list of words.
- 5 Find all the words that include the focus sound in the picture. Some are labelled, some are not.
- 6 Talk about what is happening in the picture, e.g. Who can you see? What are they doing? How do you think they might be feeling?
- 7 Ask your child to say the sounds at the bottom of the page as quickly as possible.

Remember to do the fun activities at the end – letter-tracing, matching and reading!

THIS BOOK INTRODUCES:

g as in gate.
o as in octopus.
c as in cat.
k as in key.

Hear the sounds on our website
www.oxfordowl.co.uk

LABELS IN THE ILLUSTRATIONS

The labels show the focus letter in black. Encourage your child to listen for the focus sound within the word as you read the whole word to them.

Debbie Hepplewhite's Top Tips

What is blending?
For reading (decoding), say the sounds from left to right of the word and blend the sounds to hear the whole word.

How to blend:
Point under each letter as you say the sound, then run your finger under the whole word as you say the whole (or blended) word.
e.g. **c-a-t** **cat**

Tips for spelling (encoding)
Say the word slowly to identify each sound in the word.

Use your left hand to tally the individual sounds to your thumb and fingers.

Write down the letters which are code for each sound you have tallied.

Sounds and spellings
Letters written like this /k/ refer to a sound, not a spelling.
e.g. /k/ as in cat, key, duck

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Illustrations © Alex Brychta 2011
The characters in this work are the original creation of Roderick Hunt and Alex Brychta whose names appear in the characters.
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We may also send home Grapheme and Picture Tiles, Activity Sheets, Cumulative Texts, *Activity Books* and *Say the Sounds Posters* for your child to practise phonics at home.

You may like to visit www.oxfordowl.co.uk for further information about phonics, helping your child to read and for free resources and eBooks.

Best wishes,