

How do we make writing simple for children to learn?



We teach handwriting, spelling and composition separately, gradually bringing each skill together step-by-step.



We teach children to form letters with the correct pencil grip and in the correct sitting position from the very beginning. They practise handwriting every day so they learn to write quickly and easily.



Once children can write simple words, we teach them to 'hold' a sentence in their heads and then write it with correct spelling and punctuation.



Very soon children are able to write down their own ideas. We try out different sentences together, drawing on new vocabulary and phrases from the storybook they've just read. They practise saying their sentences out loud first so they don't forget their ideas while they're writing. They also learn to proofread their own writing using ready-made sentences containing common grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.



## Story and poetry time

Storytime is the highlight of every day. We have a bank of stories that children get to know really well, and others we read just for fun. Children learn to retell the story, learn the refrains by heart and act out the stories with their friends. Children also get the opportunity to listen to and read poetry.

## How can you help at home?

We appreciate you're busy but here are two things that will make the biggest difference to your child's progress. Every night:

Read a bedtime story to your child

- Read these stories to your child - don't ask them to read the story themselves as this is beyond their current reading stage.
- There is some really good advice about how to make bedtime storytime fun on [www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents)

Listen to you child read the storybook we send home

- Your child will bring home a Read Write Inc. storybook they have just finished reading in their group. They will be able to read this book confidently because they have already read it two of three times.
- Please do not say "This book is too easy!" Praise your child for how well they read it – celebrate what a great reader they are.
- They'll sometimes bring home previous stories they have read too. Re-reading stories develops their fluency on every reading. There's more good advice on how to listen to your child read on [www.ruthmiskin.com/parent](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parent)

There's more good advice on how to listen to your child read, along with other Read, Write, Inc. resources and downloads on

[www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents)

## How we teach you child to read and write, Using Read, Write, Inc.



# How we teach your children to read and write

Every child deserves success right from the start. We know that the sooner children learn to read, the greater their success at school. This is why we put reading at the heart of what we do.

We use a teaching programme called *Read Write Inc.* Phonics to teach our children to read and write.



How do we make phonics easy for children to learn?



•Read Write Inc. Phonics depends upon children learning to read and write sounds effortlessly, so we make it simple and fun. The phonic knowledge is split into two parts.



First we teach them one way to read and write the 40+ sounds in English. We use pictures to help, for example we make 'a' into the shape of an apple, 'f' into the shape of a flower. These pictures help all children, especially slower-starters, to read the sounds easily.



Children learn to read words by sound-blending using a frog called Fred. Fred says the sounds and children help him blend the sounds to read each word.

•Then we teach children the different spellings of the same sounds, for example, they learn that the sound 'ay' is written ay, a-e and ai; the sound 'ee' is written ee, e and ea. We use phrases to help them remember each sound for example, ay, may I play, a-e – make a cake?

How do we ensure children can read every book?

- The first thing we do is to give children books we *know* they can read – without any guessing. (We read lots of other stories *to* them, but do not expect them to read these yet.)
- Before they read the story, they sound out the names of characters and new words, practise reading any of the 'tricky red' words, and tell them a thought-provoking introduction to get them excited about the story.
- Then, over three days, children read the story three times: first to focus on reading the words carefully; the second to help them read the story fluently; and on the third, we talk about the story together for example, how characters might be feeling and why. By the time your child reads the story to you at home, they will be able to read it confidently with expression..

How do we teach children to spell confidently?

- We use just two simple activities: Fred Fingers to spell regular words and teach tricky words.

Fred Fingers

- We teach children to spell using 'Fred Fingers': we say a word and then children pinch the sounds onto their fingers and write the word, sound by sound.

Tricky Words

- We teach children tricky words. We use lots of different strategies to help the children learn these words. We become word detectives and look out for them in books and in our environment, as well as using them in our writing.
- Children learn to spell new words and review past words every week.

## Working Together

The children work with a partner for many of the Read, Write, Inc activities. Partner talk is fundamental to the success of the programme. We use 'turn to your partner' in every lesson throughout the day.

Children's progress is assessed regularly and we provide regular sessions for children who need a bit of a boost to keep up.

