

# Learning to read at Pitteuchar West

## Part 2: Phonics

Learning to read is a journey. At Pitteuchar West, we follow the Fife Workshop for Literacy approach which uses the science behind learning to read. Learning to read has 5 components which are taught in depth to support success in reading.



This second handout will focus on phonics. Phonics builds upon phonemic awareness to enable children to ‘crack the code’ of reading (decoding).

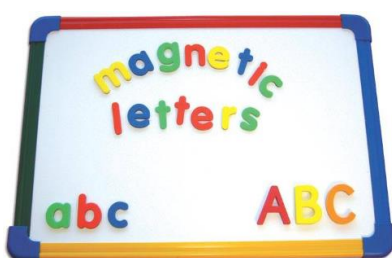
Phonics supports children to make links between sounds and letters to build words. Rather than memorising thousands of words by sight, phonics is taught to support children in using their knowledge of sounds to read words.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
s a t i p	c k h e r	g o u l f	ai j oa ie	z w ng v	y x ch sh	qu ou oi
n	m d	b	ee or	oo oo	th th	ue er ar
						wh

There are 26 letters (graphemes) but 44 sounds (phonemes). Some sounds are represented by 2 or 3 letters. Click on the link to see a short animation about phonics.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/phonics/>

Sounds and letters are taught in an order that supports decoding of high numbers of short words e.g Group 1 sounds- at it sat sap pat pan pin tap tip nip nap tan ant etc...



Your child may talk about magnetic letters or letter stampers used in class. These are useful for identifying and exploring letters and sounds, creating words without the fine motor skills required for writing.

The way we sound letters is important.

You can learn how to use the 'pure sound' method to help your child learn the phonemes. This method supports the blending of sounds when put together.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/what-is-letters-and-sounds/>

Some phrases you may hear taught are:

'consonant digraphs'- ch, sh, th, ng

'Vowel digraphs and trigraphs'- ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ear, air, ure, er

Listening and looking out for these sounds in the environment can help these sounds 'stick' but sounding out every word in a story can take away the fun in reading.

In school, like at home, we read aloud and together, use picture clues and predictions to ensure that the love of reading is at the forefront of reading.

Part 3 of our learning to read guide will focus on 'fluency' which pulls lots of these skills together.