

PARENT FAQs FOR READ WRITE INC. PHONICS

Where else can I find information?

Glossary

How can I support my child's reading and writing?

What might my child bring home to read?

How do I listen to my child read?

How else can I develop my child's language?

Where else can I find information?

Watch video tutorials on <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> to help you to understand more about *Read Write Inc.* Phonics and how to help your child read and write at home.

Other useful websites:

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/ruthmiskintrainedu?mc_cid=63bf74b56&mc_eid=4ec2ad9cea

Glossary

'Special Friends'

Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. ck, ay, igh, oa.

Fred Talk

Fred the Frog helps children read and spell. He can say the sounds in words, but he can't say the whole word, so children have to help him.

To help children read, Fred (the teacher) says the sounds and then children say the word. For example, Fred says c-a-t, children say cat, Fred says l-igh-t, children say light.

Teachers are encouraged to use Fred Talk through the day, so children learn to blend sounds.

For example:

Play Simon Says: Put your hands on your h-ea-d/ f-oo-t/ kn-ee.

Put on your c-oa-t/ h-a-t/ s-c-ar-f.

Set the table with a b-ow-l/ f-or-k/ s-p-oo-n.

'Fred in your head'

Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds silently in their heads.

We show them how to do this by:

1. whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word;
2. mouthing the sounds silently and then saying the whole word;
3. saying the whole word straight away.

What might my child bring home to read?

- 'Last and past' Storybooks: contain sounds and words the children know. This is the Storybook they have just read at school and maybe some they have read before, for extra practice. Please don't worry that books are too easy. Children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. Their speed and understanding improves on every read.
- Book Bag Books: matched to the Storybooks children read in school and used for extra practice. They include many of the same reading activities that we use in class and include parent guidance.
- More Storybooks and Non-fiction books: matched to the sounds and words your child knows well.
- Picture books to share with you: read these stories to children or encourage them to retell the story by looking at the pictures. They are not expected to read the story themselves.
- Speed Sounds cards: for children to practise reading speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.
- Red Word book pages: challenge your child to read the Red Words speedily across the rows and down the columns. Set a timer – can they beat yesterday's time?

How do I listen to my child read?

Your child has a Storybook matched to the sounds and words they know – a decodable book – so they should be able to read all the words.

Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"

'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word

Remind your child to read words using 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word' (see glossary).

For example 'ship': spot the 'sh', then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.

Red Words

Red Words are also known as common exception or tricky words. They occur in stories regularly (said, what, where) but have unusual letter combinations ('ai' in the word 'said' makes the sound 'e').

Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red Words but instead to 'stop and think'. Tell them the word if you need to.

Read the same book again and again

Children love reading the same book again and again. Their reading becomes speedier and they understand what they are reading.

- Encourage your child to read words using 'Fred in your head' (see glossary)
- Show your child how to read the story in a storyteller voice
- Share your enjoyment of the story when they read it again and again.
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Here are some top tips for storytime:

- 1. Make it a treat – introduce each new book with excitement***
- 2. Make it a special quiet time – cuddle up!***
- 3. Show curiosity in what you're going to read***

4. ***Read the story once without stopping so they can enjoy the whole story. If you think your child might not understand something say something like 'Oh I think what's happening here is that...'***
5. ***Chat about the story e.g. I wonder why he did that? Oh no, I hope she's not going to...***
6. ***Avoid asking questions to check what they remember***
7. ***Link to other stories and experiences you have shared e.g. this reminds me of...***
8. ***Read favourite stories over and over again – encourage your child to join with the bits they know. Avoid saying 'not that story again!'***
9. ***Use different voices – be enthusiastic!***
10. ***Love the book – read with enjoyment***

How else can I develop my child's language?

Children will have a large vocabulary if they are part of a 'talk-a-lot' family:

- Use every opportunity to talk with your child throughout the day – meal times, playing together, bath time
- Use new and ambitious vocabulary e.g. miserable instead of sad, stroll instead of walk
- Speak to your child in complete sentences
- Make up stories together - there's no need to write it down.