



Teaching and Learning  
Phonics at St  
Leonard's Primary  
School



# Fun Facts:

There are 26 letters, 144 combinations, and 500,000 words in current use in the English language.

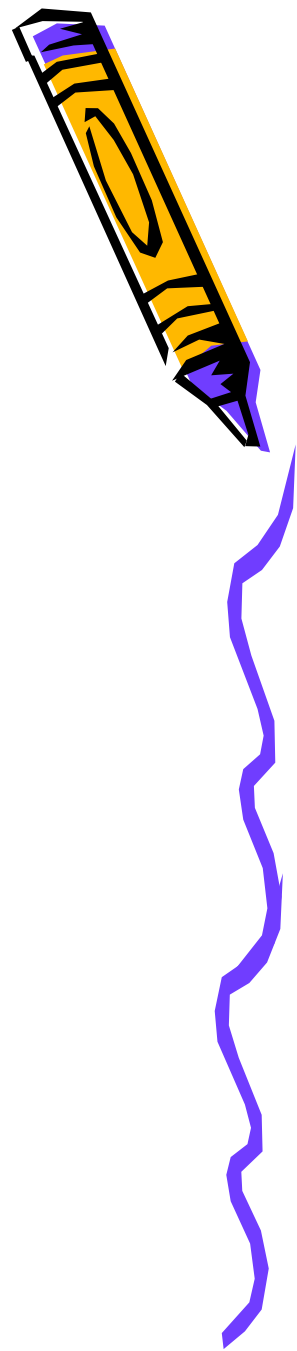
An average adult has a vocabulary of 50,000 words.

If you learn 20 spellings a week in school, (38 weeks a year) you will know 760 spellings!

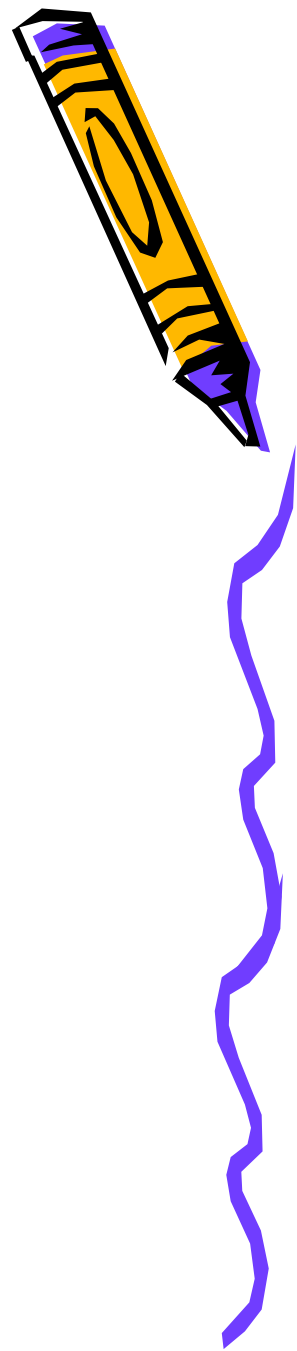
12 years at school will amount to learning to spell 9120 words.

How do you learn how to spell the rest?

PHONICS!!!!



What is phonics?



# Phonics Vocabulary

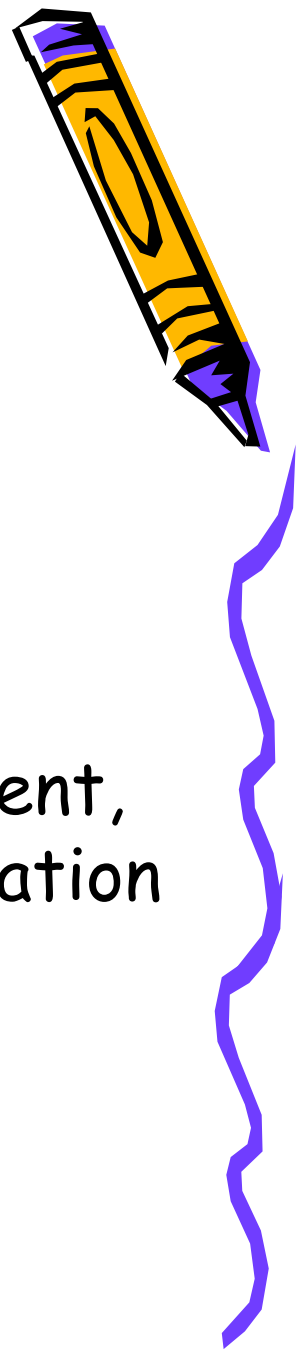
- Phonemes: The smallest units of sound that are found within a word: c-a-t, sh-o-p
- Grapheme: Letter(s) representing a phoneme: m, ai, igh
- Digraph: Two letters that make one sound: sh, ee, th, ie
- Trigraph: Three letters that make one sound: igh, ear, air
- CVC: Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant: hat, shop, man
- Split digraph: A digraph in which 2 letters are not adjacent: cake, slide, cone
- Tricky words: Words that cannot easily be decoded: the, said, we, are.



# Phase 1: Getting ready for phonics

Phonics begins in Nursery with activities focusing on the following areas:

1. Tuning into sounds
2. Listening and remembering sounds
3. Talking about sounds- Music and movement, Rhythm and rhyme, Sound effects, Alliteration
4. Speaking and listening skills
5. Oral blending and segmenting



# Phonics is:

**skills** of  
segmentation  
and blending

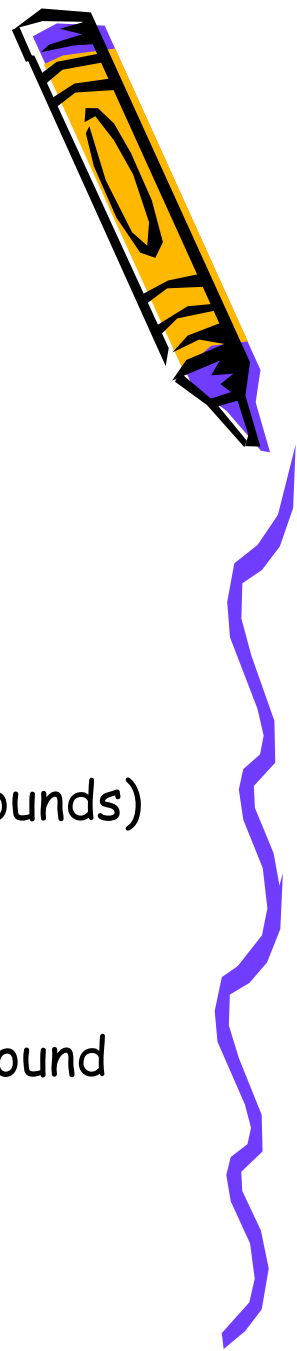
+

**knowledge**  
of the  
alphabet

Blending: Merging (or synthesising) the phonemes (letter sounds) c-a-t into cat

•

Segmenting: Taking a spoken word e.g dog, identifying the individual sounds d-o-g and working out how to write each sound to create the word.



# Blending

/b/ /e/ /d/ = bed

/t/ /i/ /n/ = tin

/m/ /u/ /g/ = mug



# Segmenting

bed = /b/ /e/ /d/

tin = /t/ /i/ /n/

mug = /m/ /u/ /g/

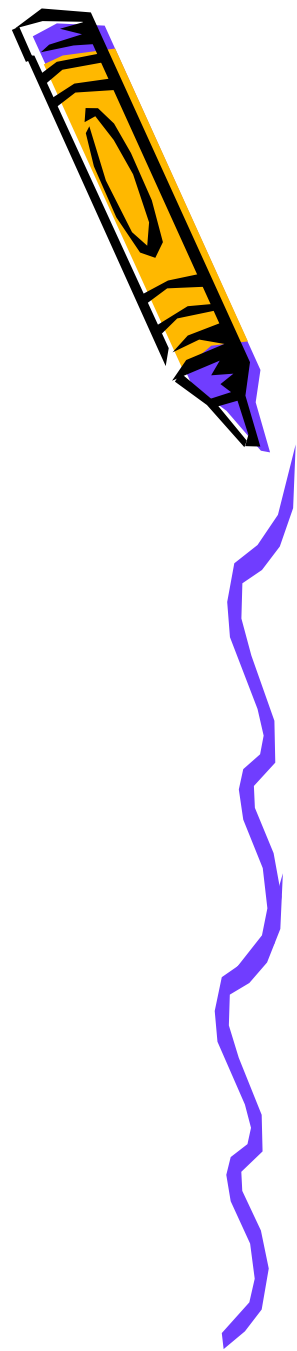




# Saying the sounds

- Sounds should be articulated clearly and precisely. (video)

Children learn actions to accompany each sound, as well as listening to songs for each sound - you may have heard some of these at home!



f h l m n p r s v z

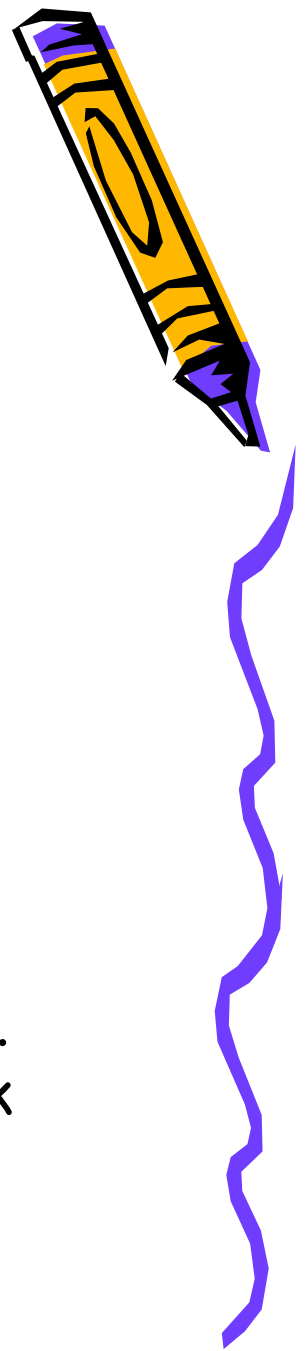
fun

ham

sip



# Daily Phonics



Every child in Reception and KS1 is taught daily phonics at their level. This continues into KS2 if needed.

Phonics gradually progresses to learning spellings - rules etc.

Every day the children have 20 minute sessions of phonics.

- Fast paced approach
- Lessons encompass a range of games, songs and rhymes
- We use the Letters and Sounds planning document to support the teaching of phonics and Jolly Phonics.
- There are 6 phonics phases which the children work through at their own pace.



# Phoneme frame and sound buttons

c	a	t
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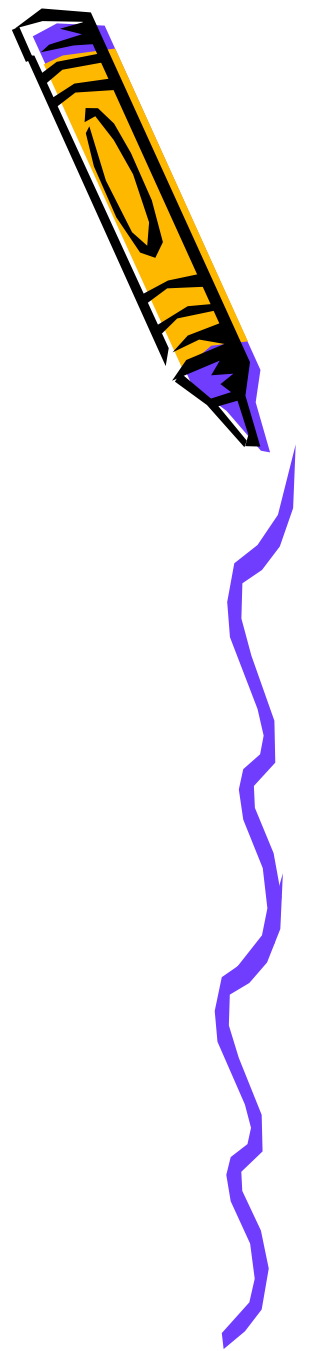


f	i	sh
---	---	----

• • —



# Phoneme frames activity



log

duck

fill



# Answers

l	o	g
---	---	---

• • •

d	u	ck
---	---	----

• • —

f	i	ll
---	---	----

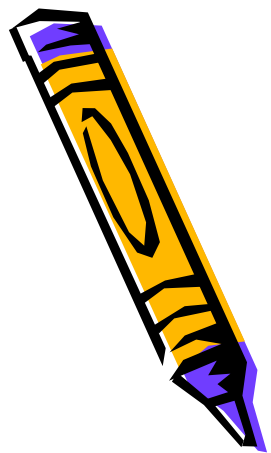
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# Digraphs

2 letters make 1  
sound (phoneme)

'igh' = trigraph



# Tricky Words



There are many words that **cannot** be blended or segmented because they are irregular.

the

was

said

you

some





# Learning all the variations!

Learning that the same phoneme  
can be represented by  
different graphemes.:

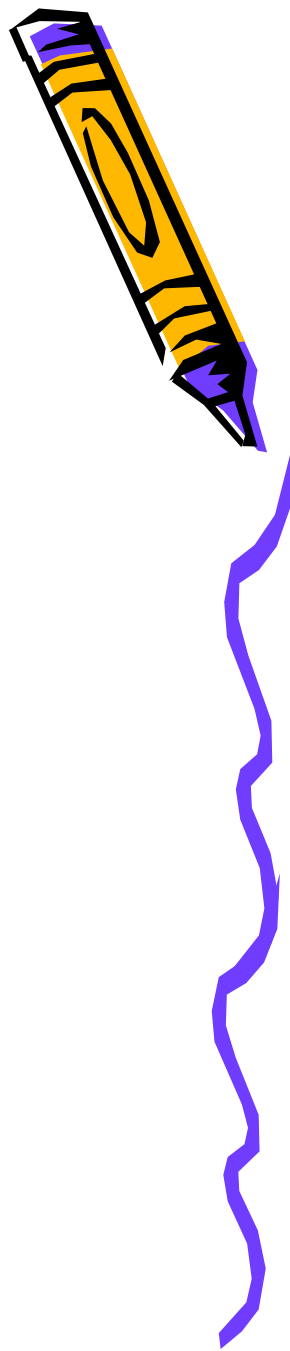
*burn*

*first*

*term*

*heard*

*work*



# Learning that the same grapheme can represent more than one phoneme:

meat

bread

he

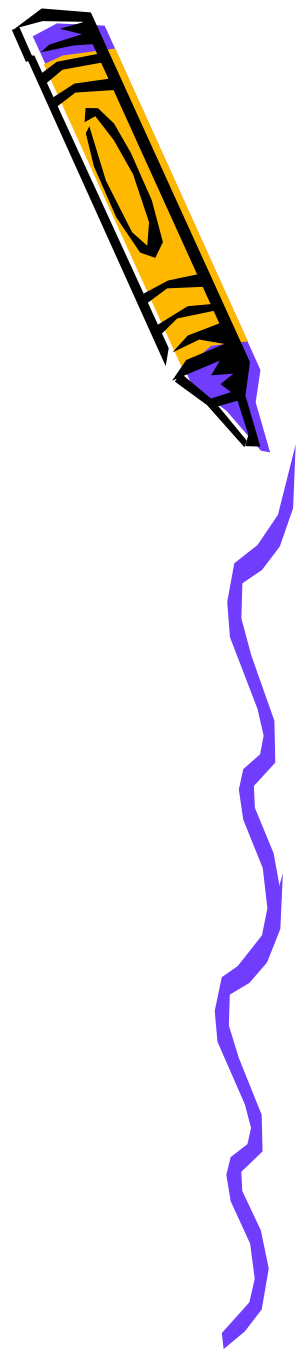
bed

bear

hear

cow

low



# Teaching the split digraph

tie

time

toe

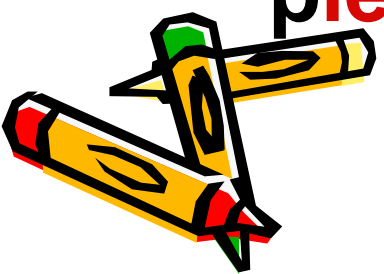
tone

cue

cube

pie

pine



# Year 1 Phonics Screening



The Phonics Screening Check is designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students who need extra support in phonics.

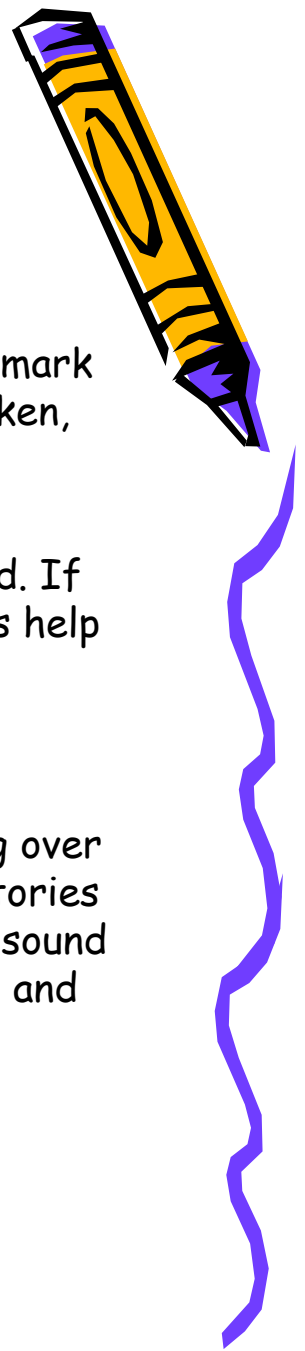
The checks consist of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything - your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

This year school will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check the week beginning 12th June.



# Year 1 Phonics Screening



- In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 the "pass threshold" was 32, which means children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. The threshold mark is communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken, so that teachers can mark the Check.
- You will be told how your child did, but schools' results will not be published. If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Phonics screening check in Year 2,.
- How can I help my child prepare?
- You can help your child prepare for their Phonics Screening Check by going over the phonics they've learned in Reception and Year 1. Read new books and stories with them where they will be introduced to new words that they'll have to sound out. There are also online games where children will have to read both real and nonsense words.



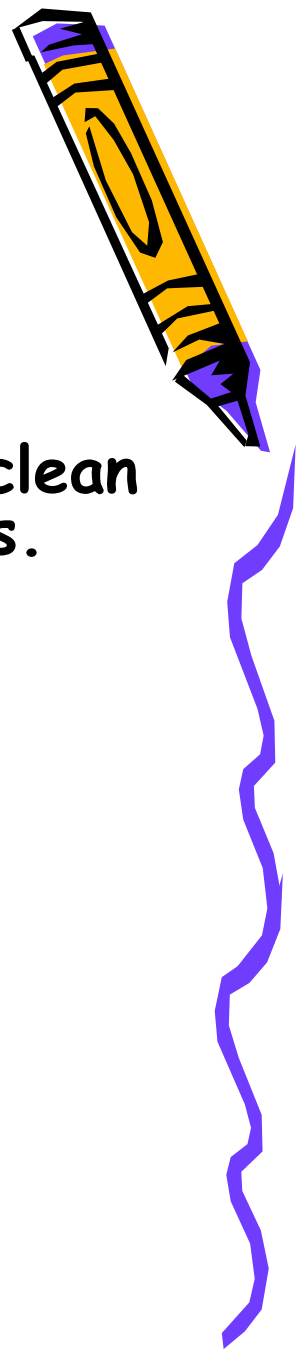
Is there anything I can  
do at home?



y	e	s
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# How can I help at home?



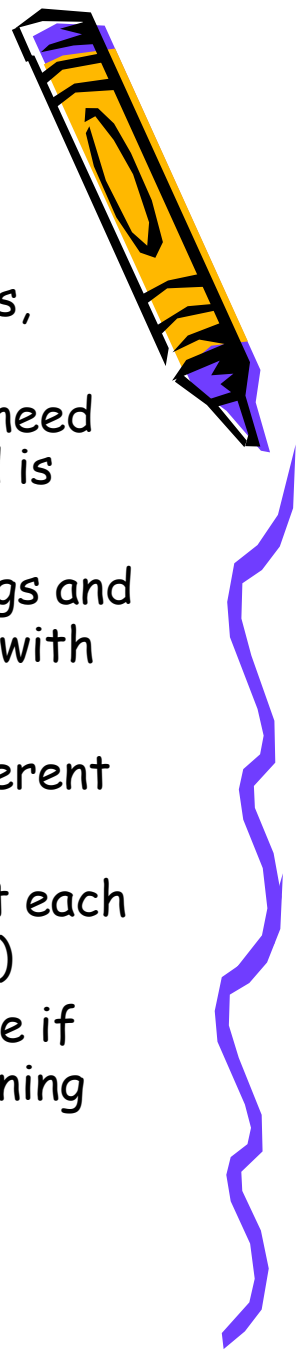
- When spelling, encourage your child to think about what “looks right”.
- Have fun trying out different options...wipe clean whiteboards are good for trying out spellings.

- tray
- rain
- boil
- boy
- throat
- snow

- trai
- rayn
- boyl
- boi
- throwt
- snoa



# How can I help at home?



- Practise the phonemes together, sing the songs, do the actions, write the graphemes.
- Read everyday with your child if possible, this doesn't always need to be a 'reading book'- read anything and everything your child is interested in.
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes at home together. Sharing songs and rhymes is something that you can easily do when you are busy with something e.g. cooking, cleaning, driving in the car.
- Play I spy, find objects around the house that start with different phonemes, you can also play this as you walk along.
- Ask your child to help you write the shopping list, sounding out each word - (remember don't worry if words aren't spelt correctly!)
- Practice their home spelling regularly to reinforce sounds - see if you can be 'sound detectives' and spot the sound they are learning out and about.



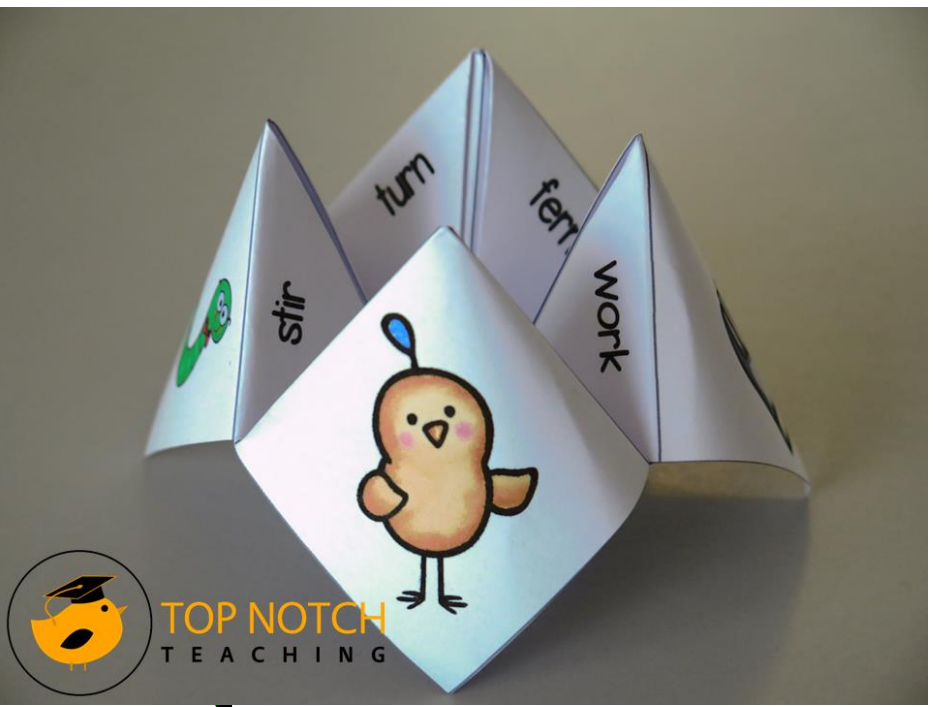


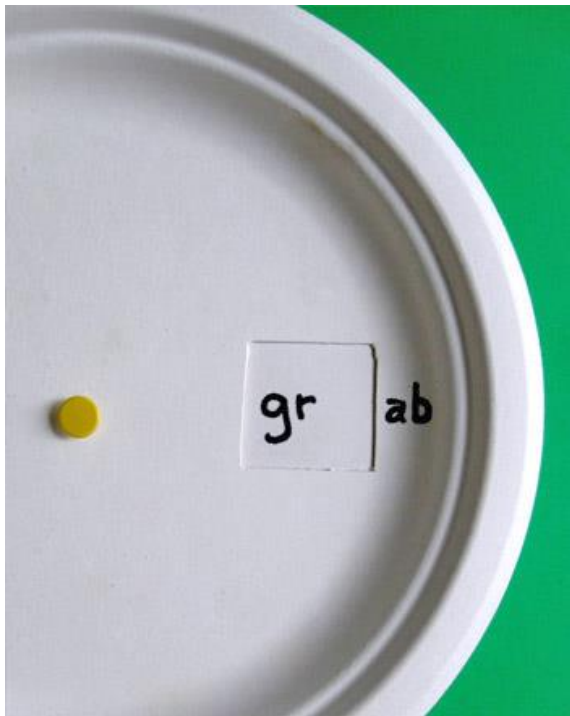
# How can I help at home?

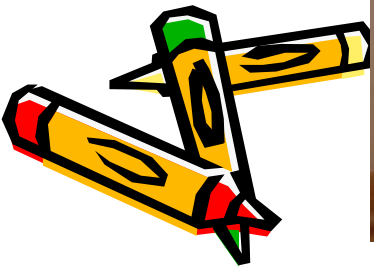
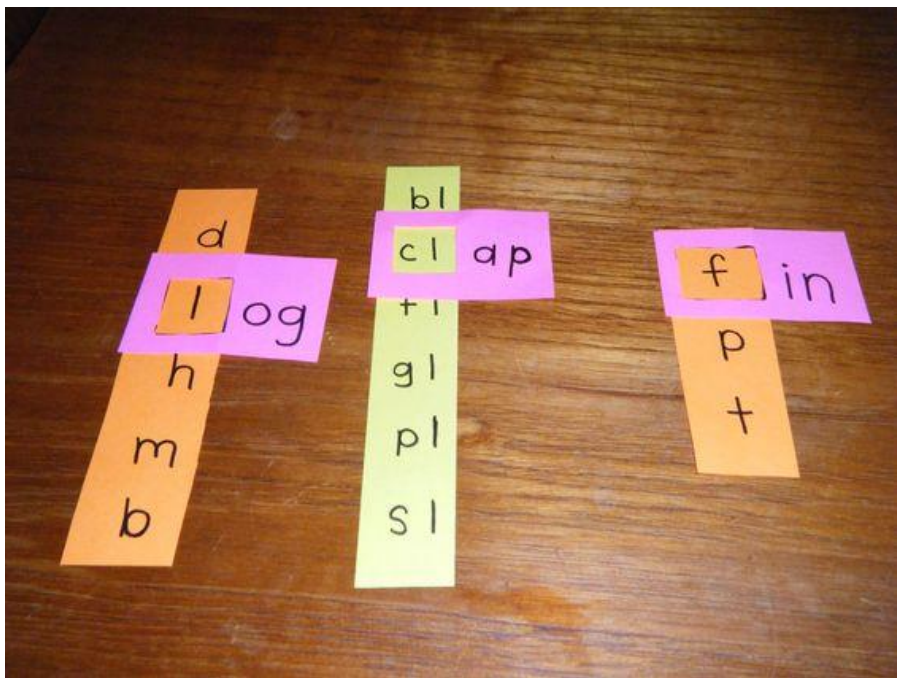


- Put sounds up that they are learning in their bedroom to practise - maybe a secret code to get into the room.
- Put home spelling on cube, roll, practise reading then spelling.
- Computer games (Phonics play, ICT Games, BBC, Top Marks)
- Oral blending: the robot game. Children need to practise hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging them together to make a word. For example, you say 'b-u-s', and your child says 'bus'.
- Children need to know both letter sounds (phonemes) and letter names (graphemes). However it is more important initially that children are familiar with the phonemes.
- There are also lots of games we play at school, which could be adapted for home: Silly soup, The splat game, What's in the bag, Yes/No sentence game, Matching words and pictures, Buried treasure, Bingo.









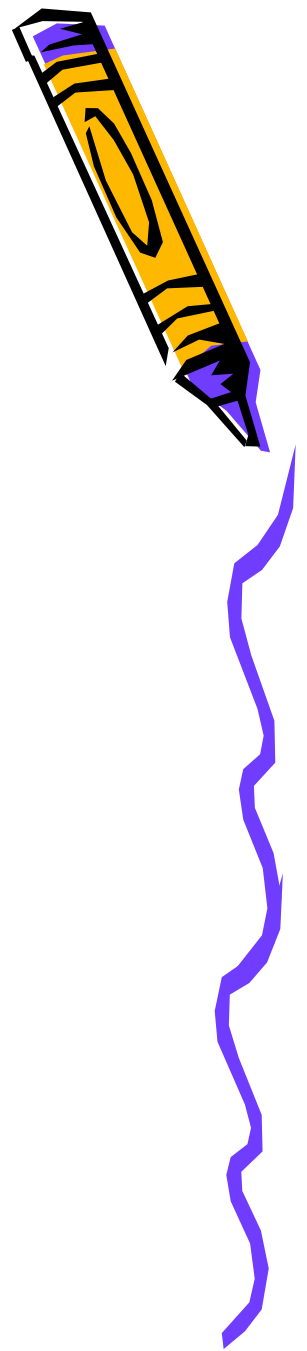


DIY Word Building Mat

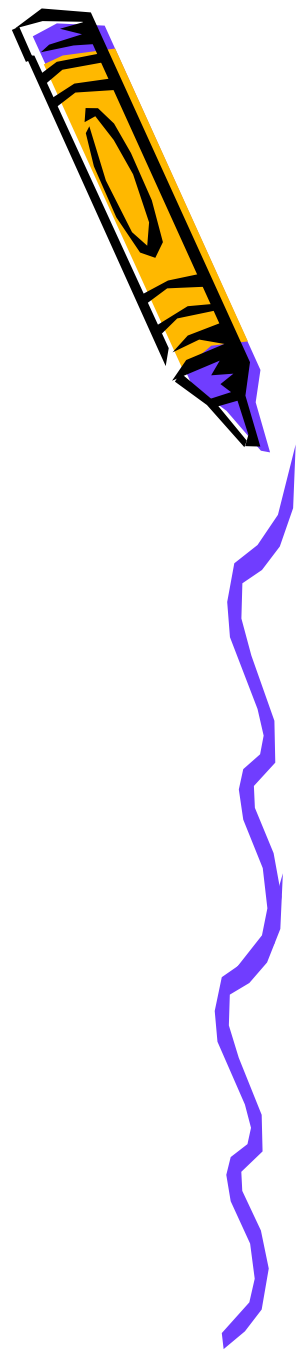


Don't forget...

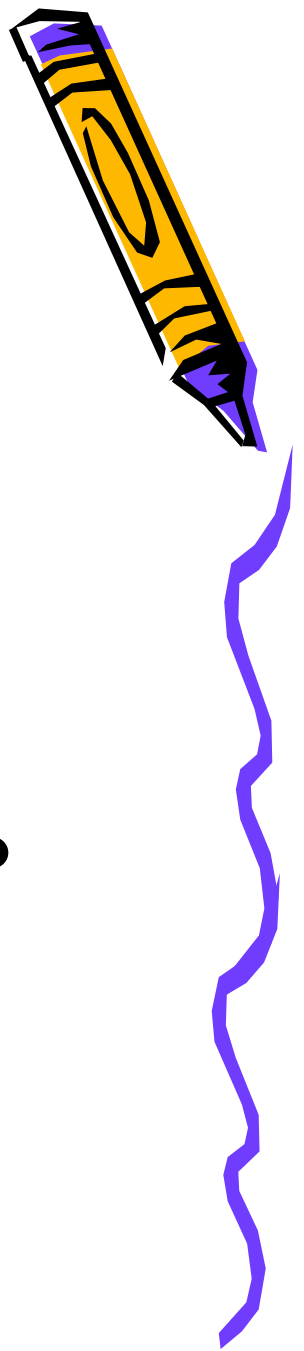
Learning to read  
should be fun for  
both children and  
parents.



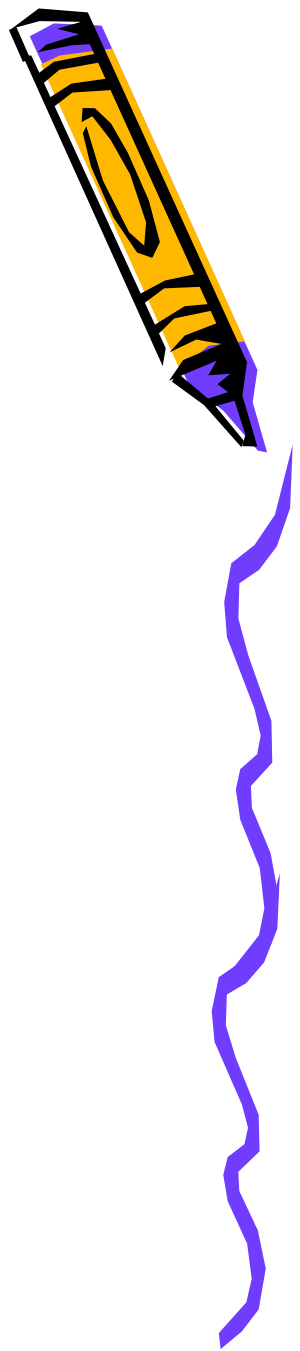
Questions?



Thank you  
for coming.







# Phoneme count Quiz!



Example: Shelf, Sh-e-l-f, 4 phonemes.

Count how many phonemes (letter sounds) are in each word. The winner(s) will get a chocolate!

think, chest, play, hedge, watch,  
caught.

