

Handford Hall Primary School
Read Write Inc
Introductory Guide for Parents

"At the core of Read Write Inc is a vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. The children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding). As the children are taught to decode and encode, they are also taught to comprehend and to compose out loud."

Ruth Miskin

How does it work?

Speed sounds

The children:

- learn the 44 sounds and the corresponding letters/letter groups using simple picture prompts
- learn to read words using sound blending (Fred Talk) eg: c-a -t = cat, l-igh-t = light. You need to avoid saying cuh-a-tuh, luh-igh-tuh
- learn to write the letters/letter groups which represent the 44 sounds
- learn to write words by saying the sounds and graphemes

The children are taught to

- say the sound
- read the sound
- write the sound
- read the Green word cards in Fred Talk (sound blending) initially
- spell the words using Fred Fingers

They are then taught to read alternative spellings of the same sound eg: ay, a-e, ai. They then learn to spell words with alternative spellings of the same sound eg: day, make, train

Linked to the Speed Sound work, the children read stories featuring words they have learned to sound out (Fred Talk). To show that they have comprehended the story the children will be asked 'Find It' and 'Prove It' discussion questions.

The children then use their phonic knowledge within their writing, through the writing of sentences, composing stories, and writing in different genres.

Terminology

Fred Talk (oral) - sound blending

Fred Fingers - saying the sounds as you press each sound onto the fingers eg: mat, three fingers m-a-t; shop, three fingers sh-o-p; snail, four fingers s-n-ai-l

Grapheme - the way we write them down

i-n contains 2 sounds and 2 graphemes

c-a-t contains 3 sounds and 3 graphemes

ch-a-t contains 3 sounds and 3 graphemes

l-igh-t contains 3 sounds and 3 graphemes

c-r-a-sh contains 4 sounds and 4 graphemes

s-t-r-ee-t contains 5 sounds and 5 graphemes

How can you support and help your child at home.

Make sure when you are practising saying sounds with your child, that you use pure sounds eg: mmmmmmm as you press your lips together hard, not muh

When Fred Talking (sound blending) a word, again make sure that they are using the pure sounds

Practise reading any words that come home with your child. Work together, one person points to the word (using a lolly stick or something similar), while the other Fred Talks/reads the words. Take it in turns with your child, they do the pointing and you do the reading! Remember you don't always need to read the words in the same order.

Your child also has a reading book; this is linked to the sounds they have been learning/practising at school. They should be able to read at least 90% unsupported. At the front and back of the book there are activities to help with word recognition and comprehension. This is all part of your child's reading experience.

Don't forget the importance of reading to your child at home.