

## How does RWI work?

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. He or she will learn to:

1. Read letters by their sounds.
2. Blend those sounds into words.
3. Read the words in a story.



## How do we teach your child to read?

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:  
**m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v**  
**y w z x** and sounds written with two letters  
(your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh qu th ng**  
**ch nk ck**
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,  
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,  
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*
- Blending Books and Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or**  
**air ir ou oy**
- Words containing these sounds
- Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw**  
**are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure**
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

## How can you help your child read the Set 1 Speed sounds?

Before you get going, visit <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/find-out-more/parents/> to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly *you* say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them.

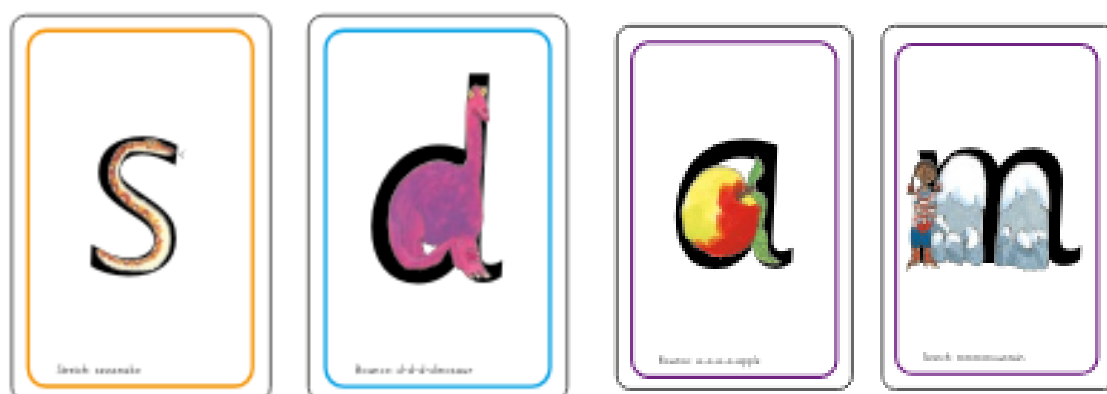
**Important:** We say 'mmm' not 'muh' and 'llll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.

Your child will bring home the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards or a *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.

You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture.

For example:

- 's' is in the shape of a snake
- 'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur
- 'a' is in the shape of an apple
- 'm' is in the shape of two mountains.



### Using the My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book

Ask your child to flick through the book and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the 'picture-sound' is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.

Practise reading and writing sounds in *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.



## How do we teach your child to read words?

Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



Fred says the sounds and children work out the word.

## How can you help your child at home to read words?

1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read quickly, e.g. c-a-t.



Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.

Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.

Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

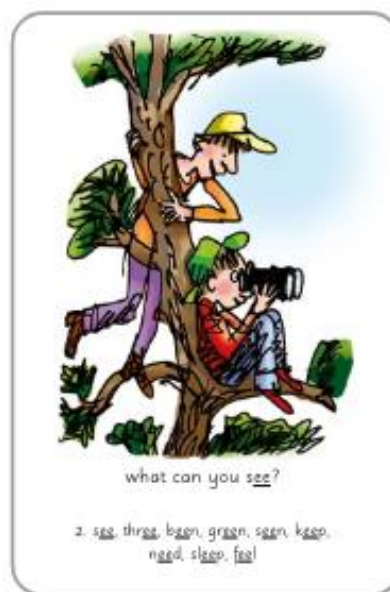
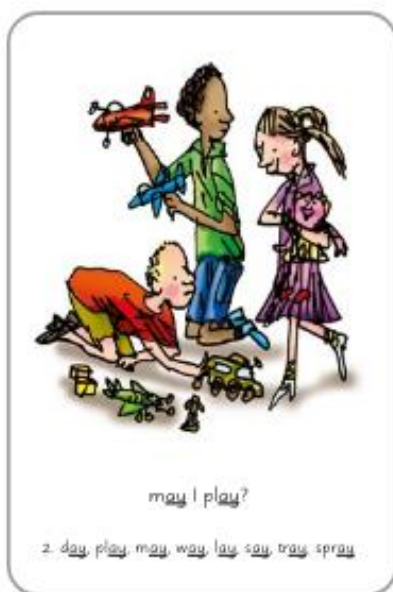
2. Put out three cards. This time, ask your *child* to say the sounds. Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.
3. Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g. b-l-i-p, f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.

## How can I help my child read Set 2 and Set 3 sounds?

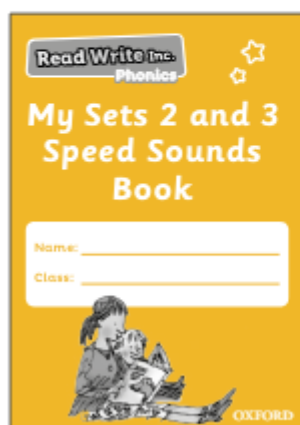
Your child will bring home the Set 2 or Set 3 Speed Sounds cards or a *My Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds Book*.

Each sound has a picture and phrase to help your child remember the sound. For example:

- the sound 'ay' has the phrase 'May I play?' with a picture of children playing together
- the sound 'ee' has the phrase 'What can you see?' with a picture of two boys in a tree.



Ask your child to flick through the book and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the picture is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.

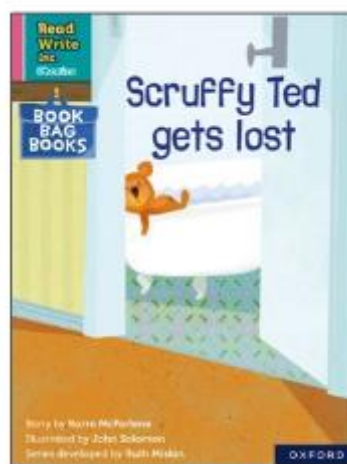
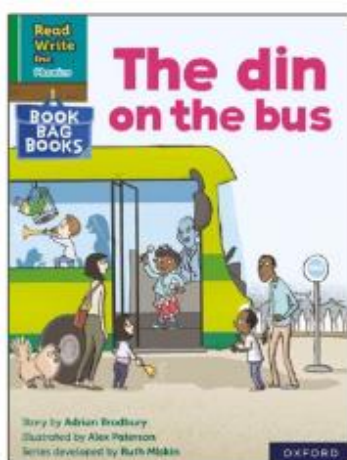


Practise reading and writing sounds in *My Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds Book*.

## How can you help your child read his or her Book Bag Book?

Once your child knows his or her initial letter sounds, he or she will be sent home a RWI Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has read that week in school. Your child may need a bit of support reading this book.

1. Encourage your child to read the Book Bag Book again and again.
2. If they struggle with a word, say "special friends, Fred talk, read the word.
3. Discuss the story with your child and encourage their storyteller voice.



## What other books will your child be sent home?



RWI Book Bag book  
at your child's  
phonetic level.  
Handed out every  
Friday.

Book banded books.

Library books to  
be shared with  
your child.

## How to listen to your child read?



- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Do it all with patience and love!

Useful websites with more information:

**Read Write Inc.**  
**Phonics: a guide**  
**for parents**



RWI Phonics Guide

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/>