

# Oxgang Primary



*Remember have  
fun and enjoy  
reading!!*

How can I help my child learn  
to read?

## How do children learn to read?

Children learn to read by developing skills of decoding and then by understanding what they read.

In the early stages of reading, we teach children to read by helping them to develop decoding skills. This involves learning:

**Phonics or sounds:** There are 26 letters in the alphabet but they make 42 sounds or phonemes. Children first learn the initial sound :*a,b,c*.....

Then they learn that letters can go together to make different sounds e.g. *ai* as in rain.

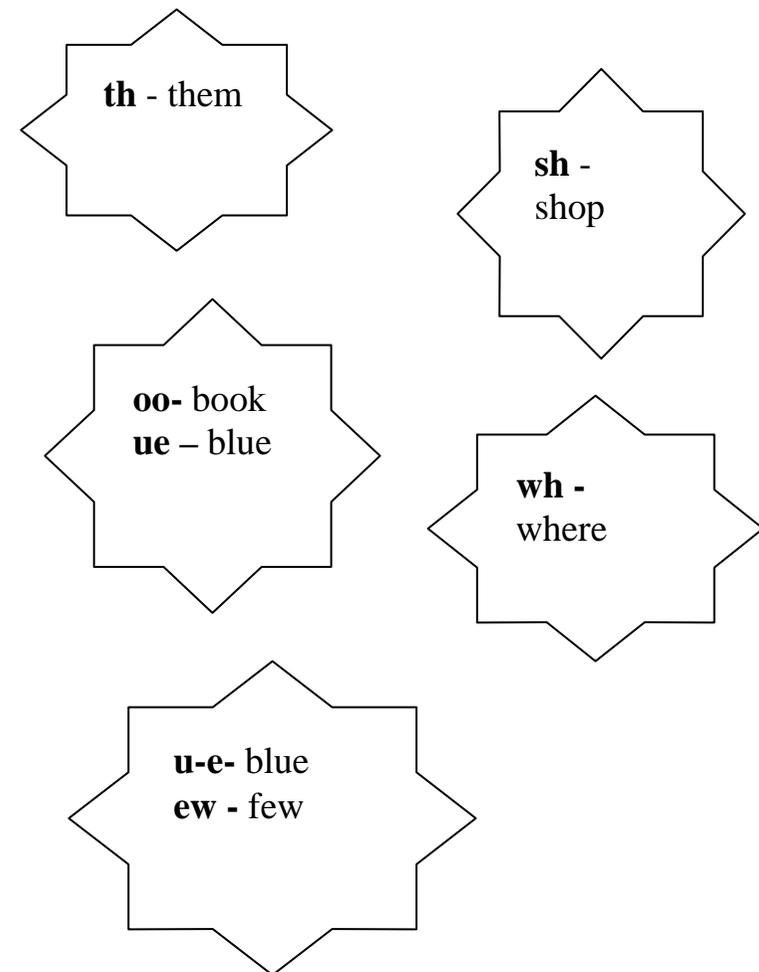
It is important that children learn to blend sounds together to make words, e.g. *tr.ai.n*.

*The phonemes are listed on the back of this leaflet.*

**Rhyming families:** We teach children to recognise words that rhyme. Indeed an ability to hear rhymes is an indicator of an ability to read. So if a child can read *ball* they may also be able to read *stall*.

**Sight vocabulary:** We teach children to read the most common words - the most common 25 first, followed by the next 25 etc. These are often the most difficult words for children to remember: the, and.....

***The Common Words are listed on the following pages-***



*The main phonemes are listed below:*

**ai** – rain  
**ay** – play  
**a-e** - make

**ie**- tie  
**i-e** – line  
**igh**- night  
**y** - cry

**oa** – goal  
**ow** – low  
**o-e** - bone

**ee** – feet  
**ea** - meat

**al** – ball  
**au** – August  
**aw** - claw

***Common Words 1***

the	of	and	a	to
in	is	you	that	it
he	was	for	on	are
as	with	his	they	I
at	be	this	have	from

***Common Words 2***

or	one	had	by	word
but	not	what	all	were
we	when	your	can	said
there	use	an	each	which
she	do	how	their	if

## Common Words 3

will	up	other	about	out
many	then	them	these	so
some	her	would	make	like
him	into	time	has	look
two	more	write	go	see

It is important that children learn all of these skills and then use them to read. We use a variety of different activities - e.g. magnetic letters to make rhyme families, writing words and children use sounds to read them, games to learn the Common words.

Our main reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree - these books provide a context for children to practise their skills of decoding and to help them learn to understand what they read.

It is important that children use their decoding skills and so we do not send home the same book the children are using in class. In this way the children do not memorise the book instead of reading it. If a child reads the same book every night, after two or three times they will know the book off by heart but may not be able to 'read' the

words if they were to see the words in a different context.

### How can I help my child at home?

#### *Play games with the Common Words -*

- Child reads the words. How many correct? Make a note of the score. Next night - Can you beat last night's score?
- Child reads the words and parent times him/her. Make a note of the score. Next night - Can you beat last night's score?
- Play hunt the words in a story book. Can you read the sentence they are in?
- Cut the words up and turn them over. Take turns to try to read a card, keep the cards you get right. ( Make a mistake or two - children love adults to get it wrong and helps them to realise it is OK to make mistakes.)

#### *Make words with magnetic letters-*

e.g. make *-at* and add letters at the beginning: *ch.at, f.at*

#### *Read a book together-*

This can be Reading Book from school but could be any story book . Take turns to read. If your child comes to a word they don't know, help them to decode it :

Is it a Common Word? Are there any sounds you know, try to sound it out? Do you another word that has the same ending?

Use a clue from the picture or the story?