

Helping Your Child to Learn Letter Sounds with Read, Write Inc



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have compiled this guide for you to help support your child when they begin to learn letter sounds.

I'm giving everyone a copy of how letter sounds are pronounced in the Read Write Inc scheme that is started in Stampers and runs right through Stamfordham First School.

Please don't feel you have to sit and teach your child the sounds at this stage. However, **if** your child is **interested** and you are doing any sounds with them at home, it really helps later if you say the sounds in the way the scheme does. This scheme encourages children to learn the **letter sounds**, *not* the letter names at this stage

In Stampers, we introduce a 'letter on the door' with the whole group, which will simply be shown – using the cards from the scheme. There is a rhyme with each sound too, which we will say with the children. This will be very informal.

With the older children who are going to be starting school the next academic year, sounds will be introduced in more structured sessions, once the children are ready for this. This varies greatly between children, and we are extremely careful not to push children too early and put them off. We do a lot of work with language and literacy skills with the children before they are ready to learn letter sounds, which gives them the skills needed for learning to read and write later. Eg listening to and telling the difference between individual sounds, starting with sounds around us in the environment, (eg paper scrunching, keys jangling); and instrumental sounds (eg shakers, bells, drums.); body sounds (eg clapping, stamping); listening for and counting the syllables in a word eg 'Stam-pers' = 2 claps; rhyming. Work on these important skills carries on throughout our child's time at Stampers.

Below is a list of letters and explanations of how to pronounce the sounds. If you would like further clarification please don't hesitate to ask.

These first sounds should all be stretched slightly. Try to avoid saying **uh** after each one: e.g. /mm/ not muh, /ss/ not suh, /ff/ not fuh.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please ask.

Yours sincerely,

Siobhan Stephenson
(Preschool Leader)

m – mmmmmountain (keep lips pressed together hard)

s – ssssnake (keep teeth together and hiss – unvoiced)

n – nnnnet (keep tongue behind teeth)

f – ffffflower (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply – unvoiced)

l – lllleg (keep pointed curled tongue behind teeth).

r – rrrrrrobot (say rrr as if you are growling)

v – vvvvvulture (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out gently)

z – zzzzzig zzzzag (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound)

th – thhhank you (stick out tongue and breathe out sharply)

sh – shhhh (make a shhh noise as though you are telling somebody to be quiet!)

ng – thinnnng on a strinnng (curl your tongue at the back of your throat)

nk – I think I stink (make a piggy oink noise without the oi! nk nk nk)

These next sounds cannot be stretched. Make the sound as short as possible avoiding **uh** at the end of the sound:

t – (tick tongue behind the teeth – unvoiced)

p - (make distinctive p with lips – unvoiced)

k – (make sharp click at back of throat)

c - as above

h – (say h as you breathe sharply out – unvoiced)

x – (say a sharp c and add s – unvoiced)

d – (tap tongue behind the teeth).

g – (make soft sound in throat).

b –(make a short, strong b with lips).

j – (push lips forward).

y – (keep edges of tongue against teeth).

w – (keep lips tightly pursed).

qu – (keep lips pursed as you say cw – unvoiced).

The short vowels should be kept short and sharp:

a: a-a-a (open mouth wide as if to take a bite of an apple).

e: e-e-e (release mouth slightly from a position).

i: i-i-i (make a sharp sound at the back of the throat – smile).

o: o-o-o (push out lips, make the mouth into o shape).

u: u-u-u (make a sound in the throat).

If you wish to support your child at home, we will list the letter sound or sounds we are practising on the back of the door to Stampers.

***The most important way you can help your child at home is to sing songs
and nursery rhymes, and sit and read stories together.
Both these activities are full of rhyming, one of the most important skills
for a child to learn.***

If at any time you want clarification of any pronunciation please ask; it is very different to the way we were taught at school!

The Stampers Team