



You will find more helpful information and links to activities for children on our website.

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A little bit of reading every day with your child can make a huge difference. Ask other family members to help too!

If at any time, you feel your child is not making the progress he/ she should or, if you would like any advice, please ask your child's class teacher. Learning to read is *the* most important skill for any child to learn and it is one that they can then use and enjoy throughout their life.

[www.hollymountschool.org](http://www.hollymountschool.org)



## Early Reading

How can I help my child?



**Hollymount School**

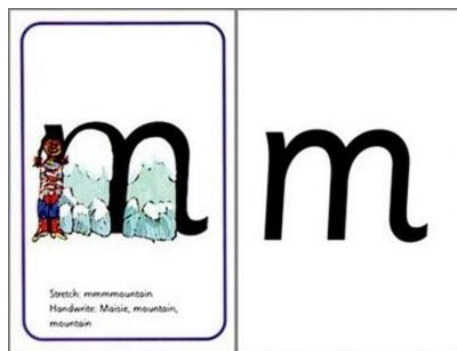
## Learning to read

From a very early age most children love to listen to stories and look at books. Some children pick up early symbols and words before they start nursery but for most children, starting Reception is when they really begin to learn to read.

## Phonics

Phonics is a method of learning to read words that is taught right from the start of Reception.

Children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent – so, they are taught that the letter *m* sounds like *mmmm* when we say it.



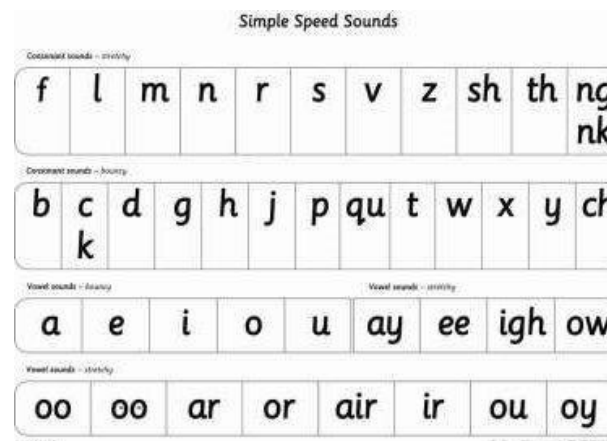
At school, you will hear adults and children talking about “Fred Talk”. This is how we remind young children to “sound out” a word. As soon as children can recognize the sounds of a small group of letters, they will begin to blend these sounds in words.

The first sounds taught are:

m– a – s – d – t – i – n

From these letters, children could read sat, tin, sit, man, sad, mat and lots more.

You will see charts like the one below around school.



It is important that children learn to recognise the sounds and say them quickly and accurately.

There is lots of help available online so that you can support your child as they learn to read. One helpful website can be found at:

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents)

## Reading at Home

To read well, a child needs to have as much practice as possible. Your child will come home with two types of reading book.

One will be a “Phonics Book” which only uses the sounds your child has been taught—it is expected that children will be able to read these books using their knowledge of letter sounds. Your child will keep this book for a week and needs to read it 3 times to make sure it can be read with fluency.

The other book will be one your child chooses; he/she may be able to read this for him or herself but it is a book that you can share together to foster a life-long love of reading. This can be changed daily, if required.