

Learning Phonics in Reception

Friday 16th October 2026



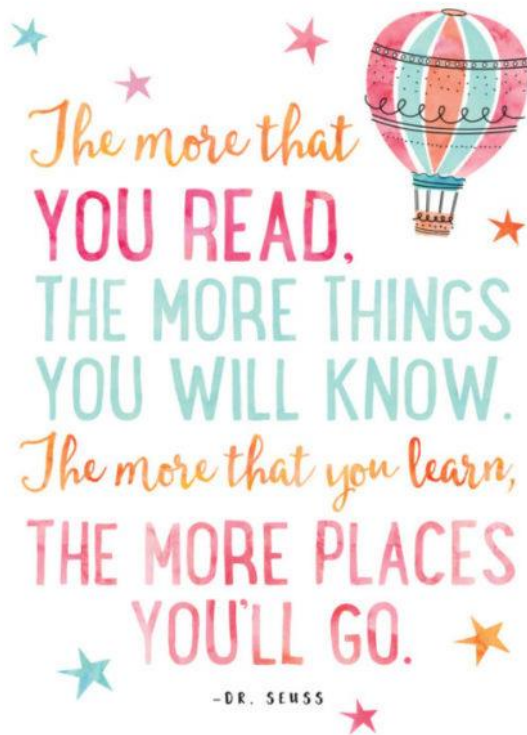
Aims of the meeting

Importance of developing your child's spoken language.

Developing a love of reading.

How we teach phonics and word recognition through the Read, Write Inc. scheme.

How you can support your child's reading development at home.



**Children's spoken
language supports
reading and writing**

Speaking and
listening

Everyday activities

Sharing books and
magazines

Ways you can support your child at home

Talking and listening.

Make time to listen to your child.

Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones.

Show that you are interested in what they are talking about.

Listen at home.

Play games.

Sing songs and Nursery Rhymes.

Instead of asking your child 'how was your day?'
after School ask them some of these
questions instead...



What made you smile today?



What made you laugh today?

Who did you sit by at Lunch?



Who did you play with today?



Tell me one thing you learnt today?

What are you looking forward to, tomorrow?

What did you find hard today?



What were you proud of today?



What was the best part of your day?



Why are these questions better?

These questions are open ended questions that will encourage your child to give a more detailed answer, rather than a one word answer.

It is also a great way at understanding your child's feelings, emotions and gives you a great insight to their school life.

2026 Annual Literacy Survey – National Literacy Trust

The National Literacy Trust's 2026 Annual Literacy Survey reveals a slight increase in reading enjoyment and daily reading among children and young people in the UK. Here are some key statistics from the survey:

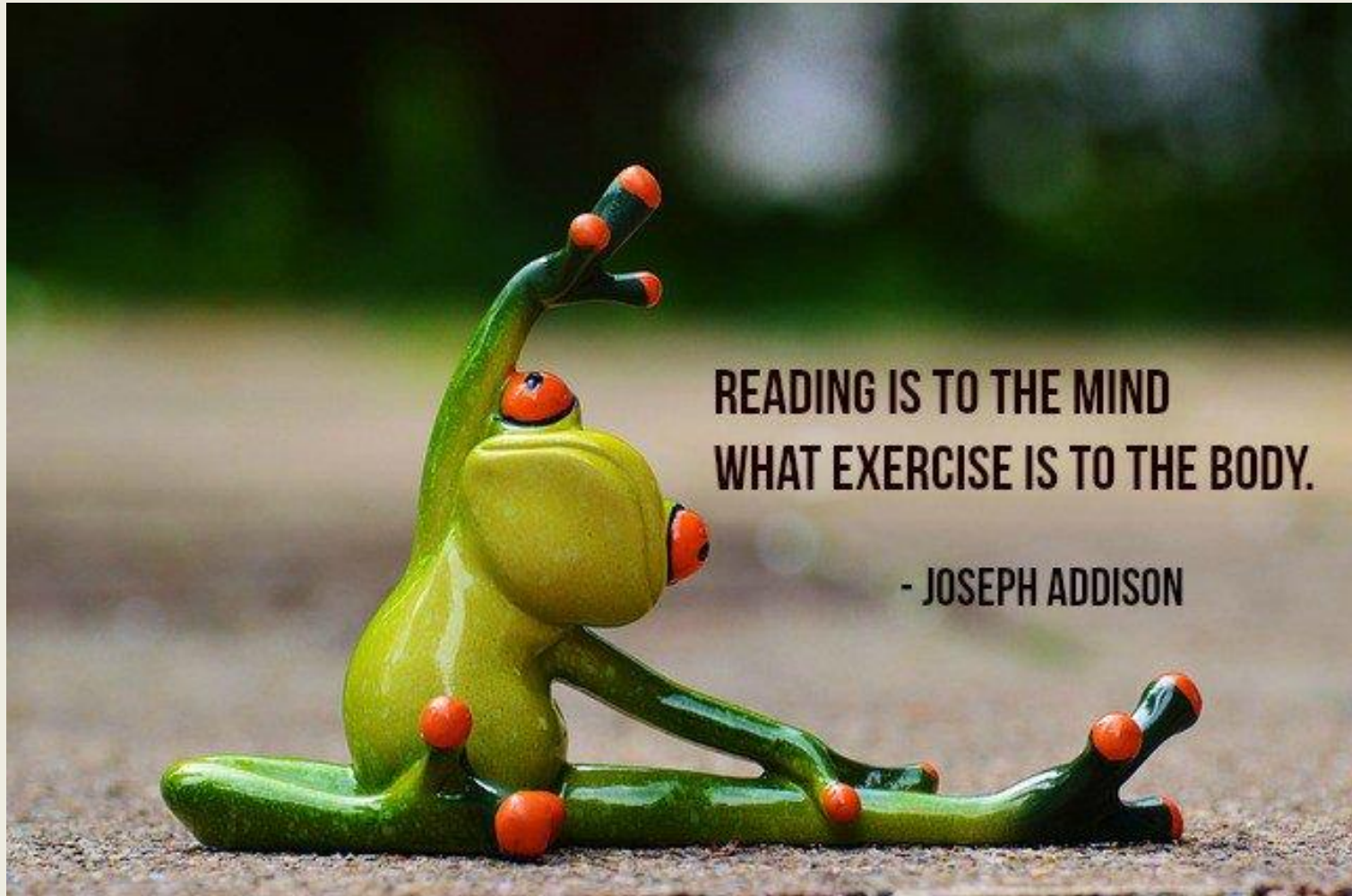
36.1% of children aged 8 to 18 enjoy reading in their free time, up from 32.7% in 2025.

20.3% of children aged 8 to 18 read daily in their free time, a slight increase from 18.7% in 2025.

Reading enjoyment and daily reading increased across all age groups, with the largest rises among teenagers aged 14 to 18.

These statistics highlight the importance of reading in children's lives and the need for continued efforts to promote reading engagement and enjoyment.

Developing a Love of Reading



READING MATTERS!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A STUDENT WHO READS



WILL BE EXPOSED TO

1,800,000

WORDS PER YEAR

282,000

WORDS PER YEAR

8,000

WORDS PER YEAR

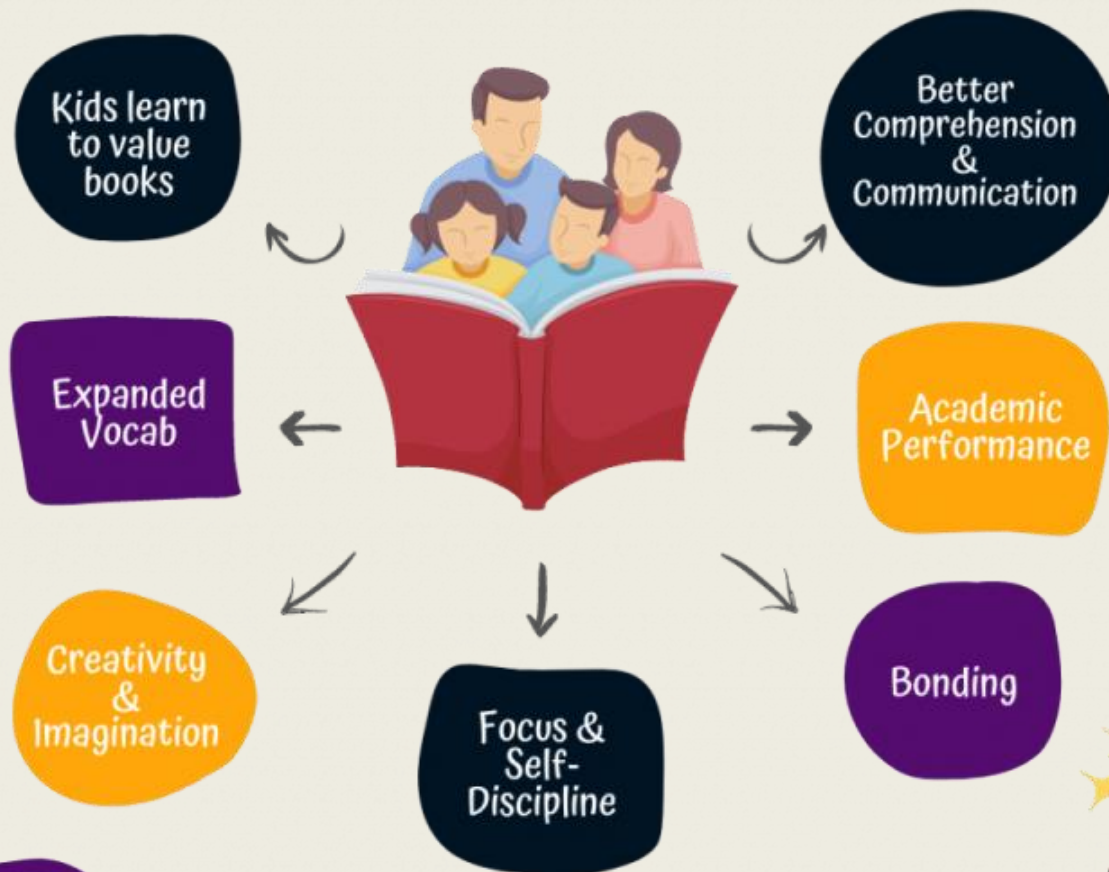
AND IS MORE LIKELY TO SCORE IN THE



ON STANDARDIZED TESTS!

Source: Rugg, Anderson, and Harris, 1987

Benefit of Reading to Children



BENEFITS OF READING FOR PLEASURE (FOR BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS)



Improves literacy skills

Reading introduces new vocabulary, which improves communication skills! Also, it helps the reader to understand the world and learn different writing styles.



Improves concentration and the ability to focus

In a fast-paced world with ever-growing technology, reading is an excellent activity to help practise concentration and focus.



Increases knowledge

Books are filled with facts and experiences which you may not be exposed to otherwise. Dr Seuss was right: the more you read, the more you know!



Improves memory function

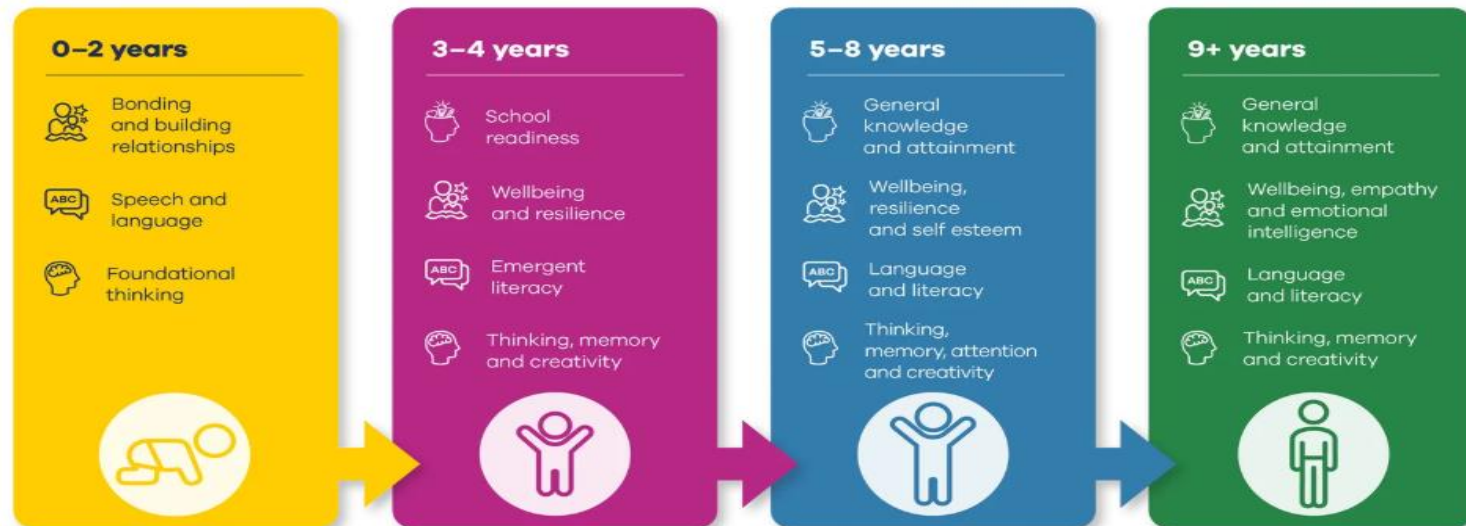
We are exposed to a lot of information in the modern world. Reading can be seen as a workout for your brain to help you remember details and knowledge.



Improves sleep

With increased screen time during the day, it is important to have time away from that blue light! Reading helps de-stress therefore calming your mind and preparing it to sleep.

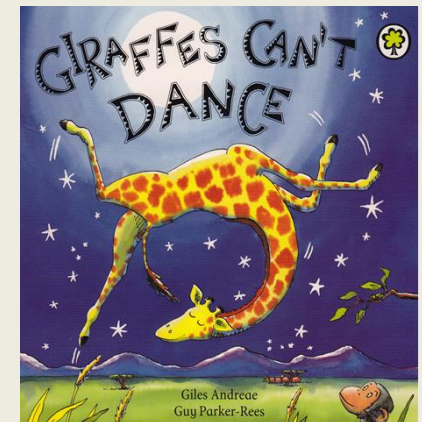
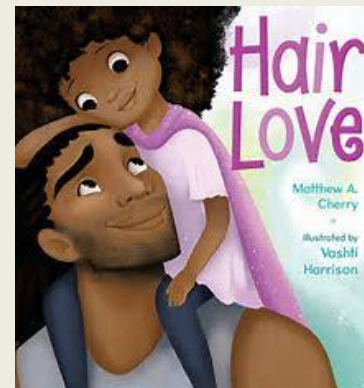
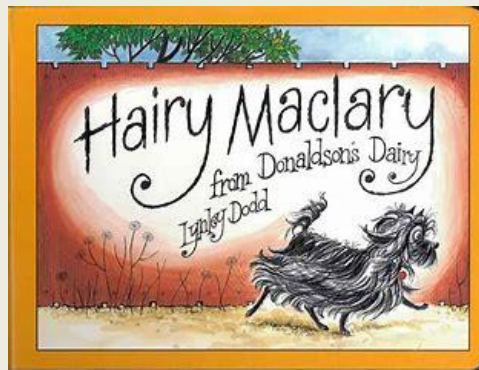
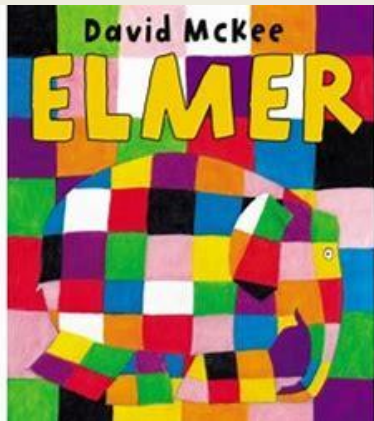
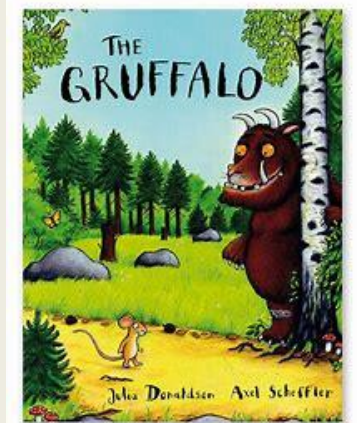
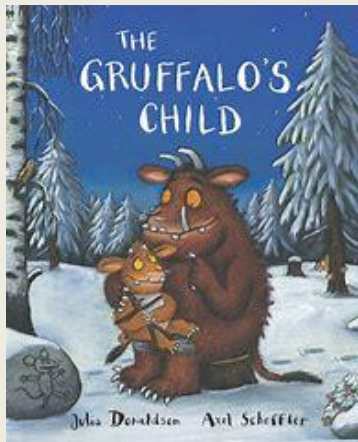
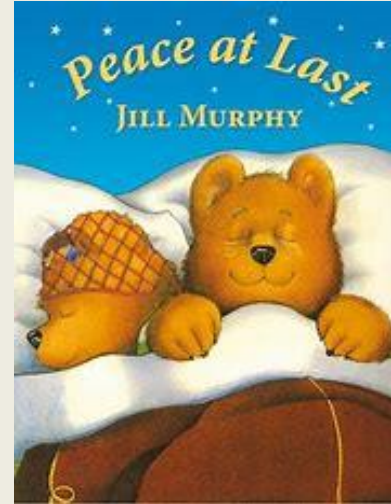
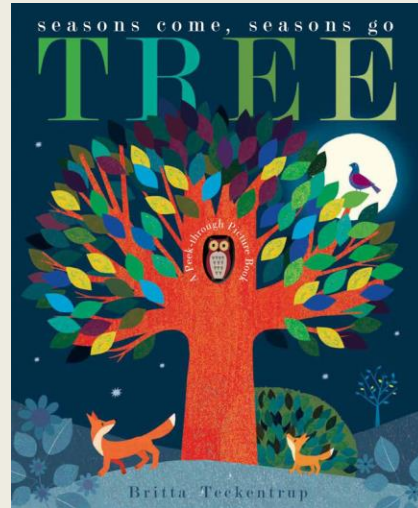
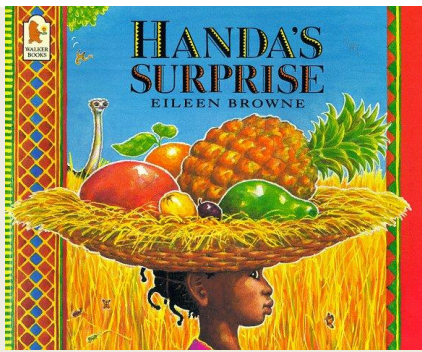
Infographic: the benefits of reading as children grow



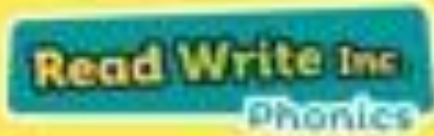
“ Several large longitudinal studies show that young people who develop the habit of reading in early childhood are likely to achieve high qualifications and upward social mobility later on. Together with the well-documented developmental benefits of reading, these findings point to reading as a powerful lever for reducing inequalities. ”

Professor Teresa Cremin, Co-Director of the Literacy and Social Justice Centre at The Open University

Books to Love



Reading to your child



10 things to think
about when you read
to your child



<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/fQ3pFyA7/UAqilR6z>

Reading – How can I help at home?

Enjoy and share books together.

Read the book your child brings home from school.

Discuss the meaning of new words.

Discuss the pictures.

Let them see you reading.

Read signs, labels and posters.

Library.

Summer Reading Challenge.

Read Write Inc.

Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics complete literacy programme which helps all children learn to read fluently and at speed so they can focus on developing their skills in comprehension, vocabulary and spelling. The programme is designed for children aged 4-7. However, at St. Ursula's we begin the programme in Nursery and will continue teaching RWI to children beyond the age of 7 if they still need support in their reading.

RWI was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found on the RWI parents page.

Understanding Phonics

The following video gives a clear understanding of what phonics is and how many different ways there are to make the 44 sounds.



- <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/3oSkfjoK/VVRix2KE>

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng nk
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----------

Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c k	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
---	--------	---	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	---	---	----

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u
---	---	---	---	---

Vowel sounds – stretchy

ay	ee	igh	ow
----	----	-----	----

Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
----	----	----	----	-----	----	----	----

How to pronounce the sounds

- Initial sounds are taught in a specific order so that children can begin to blend once they have built up a certain amount of sounds.



<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/vAqkB4Bs/ZSyr5bMd>

Teaching Phonics in School

- **High quality RWI phonic sessions take place every day for Reception and KS1**
- **RWI supports development of reading, writing and spelling**
- **Phonemes and graphemes - 'Special Friends.'**
- **Segmenting and blending - Fred Talk, Fred in your head.**
- **Reading words 'speedily'**
- **Read and spell 'tricky words' - Red Words**

RWI Lesson

Set 1 Speed Sound Lesson

Teaching new sound

Reviewing sounds

Writing new sound

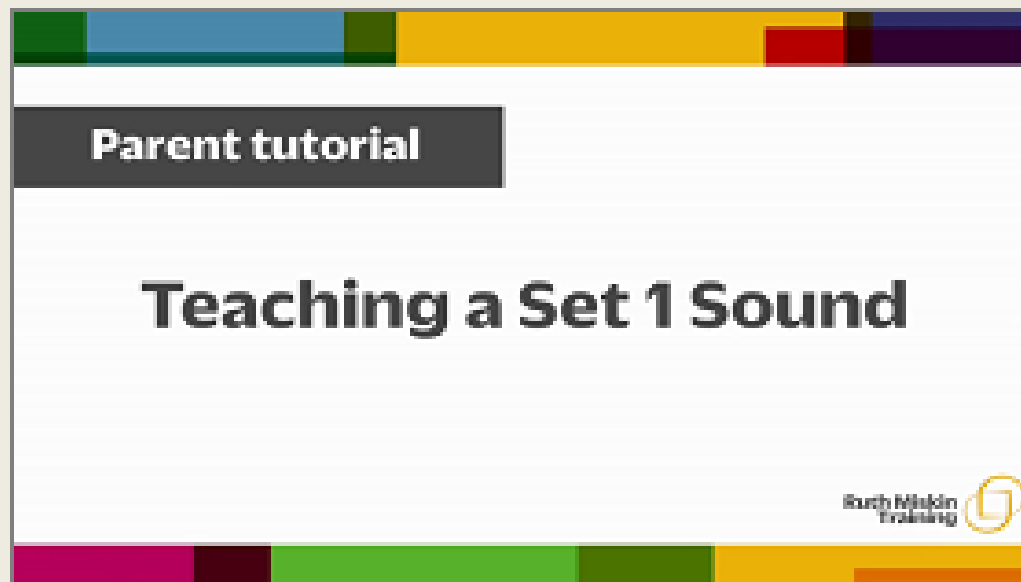
Oral blending

Word Blending

Reading words containing new
sound

Teaching a Set 1 Sound

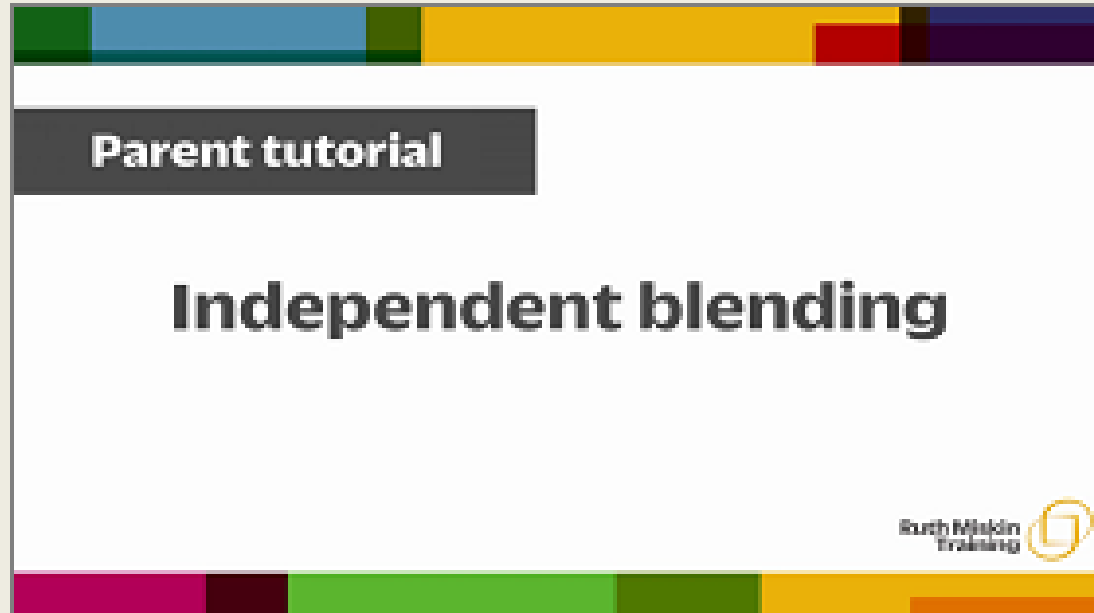
- The following video shows you how a Set 1 sound would be taught in school and how it can be taught at home to consolidate your child's learning.



[Set 1 sound phonics video](#)

Teaching Blending

- The following video shows you how children are taught to blend words once they know some of their Set 1 sounds. This is also known as 'Fred Talk.'



[independent blending phonics video](#)

Phonics – How can I help at home?

Talk to children about the sounds they are learning.

Play 'Fred Games' to develop oral blending. Here are some examples:

Help them to apply the sounds when reading at home.

Use the RWI Virtual Classroom links.

Read Write Inc. Parents information page.

Websites

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

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>



Thank you