



Parent's Guide to Spelling

Sunny Bank Primary School - Year R

Step 1: recognising alphabet letters

Children learn to recognise all the letters of the alphabet in Reception, the idea being that any time they are faced with a letter they will be able to make the sound of that letter.

Reading

Children will be taught letter sounds with a variety of songs, games and age-appropriate activities, for example: a 'lucky dip' where they have to say the sound of a letter they have picked or matching an object to the letter that makes its initial sound. It is vital that they are confident with all their letter sounds before they move onto the next stage, which is putting sounds of letters together to make short words.

Writing

Reception children need to learn how to form the letters they are learning about.

They need to start by understanding how a letter is formed and start making these motions themselves. For example: a child learning to form the letter 's' may be given an adult demonstration of how to do this in some sand, and then encouraged to copy. They may also practise using various different media, such as pens on a whiteboard, chalk on a blackboard and pencil on paper. A lot of care and attention is spent on showing children how to correctly hold a pencil. Children will also be taught how to write carefully on lines.

Step 2: blending sounds to make words

By the second term of Reception children begin to learn to 'blend' sounds, which means that when shown the word 'cat', instead of saying each letter as a separate sound, they are able to blend the sounds together to say the whole word. 'Cat' is a CVC word, because it is made up of a consonant, then a vowel, then a consonant. (Vowels are A E I O U and consonants are all other letters)

Step 3: reading CVC, CCVC and CVCC words

Children will then move onto reading CCVC words such as 'snap' and CVCC words such as 'fast'.



By the end of Reception, children are expected to be able to write one grapheme (written symbol) for each of the phonemes (sounds) in the English language, which are:

s sat	t tap	p pan	n nose	m mat	a ant	e egg	i ink	o otter
g goat	d dog	ck click	r run	h hat	u up	ai rain	ee knee	igh light
b bus	f farm	l lolly	j jam	v van	oa boat	oo cook	oo boot	ar star
w wish	x axe	y yell	z zap	qu quill	or fork	ur burn	ow now	oi boil
ch chin	sh ship	th think	th the	ng sing	ear near	air stair	ure sure	er writer

The National Curriculum for literacy states that **Reception children should be able to write 'simple regular words'**. Examples of words children might learn to spell in Reception include:

- sat
- pat
- shop
- then
- slim
- post
- sing
- milk

