

# Phase 1 Phonics: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents

This step-by-step explanation to phase 1 phonics can help you support your child's learning at home. Each subject is broken down into manageable chunks, providing you with a simple guide to follow when exploring phonics together, either as part of homework or if you decide to give your child some extra support. Whether your child is exploring the sounds around them, identifying indoor and outdoor noises and joining in with action songs, or they are beginning to use sound talk and blending of simple CVC words (cat, dog, tap), you will find a step that matches where your child is at, then have ideas for where to go next.

Within **this area of the website**, you will find a selection of resources intended to help your child learn about each step of this guide. Each step also contains a keyword or phrase that you can use to search the Twinkl site for more resources and activities, designed to support your child in achieving that stage. Simply type the keyword or phrase into the search bar and press enter to explore together.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. The contents of this resource are for general, informational purposes only. This guide is intended to offer parents general guidance on what subject areas tend to be covered in their child's year group and where they could support their children at home. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. There are some subject areas that we have intentionally not covered due to the nature of how they are taught or because a trained professional needs to teach these areas. We try to ensure that the information in our resources is correct but every school teaches the national curriculum in its own way. If you would like further guidance or are unsure in any way, we recommend that you speak to your child's teacher or another suitably qualified professional.

# Phonics

## What Is Phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read using sounds and symbols that combine to create a phonetic alphabet that can be used to blend words together. At this early stage, your child may learn all about different sounds in the world around them and begin to discover a wide variety of ways for making different sounds of their own.

## Which Environmental Sounds Will They Learn About?

During the early phase of phonics, your child will begin to explore sounds around them. They will learn about environmental, instrumental and body percussion sounds. They will learn to name and identify some of these sounds, giving an opinion of which sounds they like or dislike.

When exploring environmental sounds, your child may describe and name the different sounds that are present all around them, from washing machines, phones ringing, a creaky door and other indoor sounds, to the rustle of leaves, vehicle noises and other outdoor sounds.

They could discover the different types of sounds that different instruments produce, recognising the simple differences between the noise made by a piano and guitar, for example.

Songs and rhymes are a great way for your child to explore sounds. Repeating patterns and rhythms can both help to give your child a regular sequence to follow and repeat while practising using and making different sounds.

Being able to spot initial sounds is a great starting point for your child to build upon in the future. Recognising that different words begin with specific sounds is good practise for spotting other sounds within words as their phonics skills increase.

In addition to exploring sounds, your child will also be learning about past and present tense in their spoken language, reading and in their writing.

As well as using the resources found in the Phase 1 Phonics category and the keyword searches suggested, this guide offers a few ideas for games and activities to help your child with exploring phonics.



### Leap to the Initial Sound

On four blank pieces of paper, write four different initial sounds (for example, a, b, c, d). Place the four pieces on the floor around your child. Show your child different objects that begin with one of the four sounds (e.g. apple or bag). Your child has to jump towards the correct letter for the initial sound. Repeat with different objects and different combinations of letter sounds.

### My Turn, Your Turn, Clap, Clap, Clap

To help your child practise copying sounds and rhythms, have a try at clapping out different beats. Take it in turns to lead the clapping. You clap out a rhythm of beats and get your child to clap it back to you. Then let your child clap out a rhythm and see if you can clap it back to them. Can they recognise if you clapped it back correctly?

### Make Your Own Guitar

With your child, gather together an empty cardboard box, e.g. a cereal box, tissue box or shoe box. Attach an elastic band around the box. Have your child pluck the band and see what noise it makes. Experiment together how you can change its sounds. Does the sound change if you use a different elastic band that's thinner, thicker, longer or shorter? What about if you cut a few holes in the box?

### Sound Effect Story

When you are sharing a story with your child, let them be in charge of adding sound effects. Is the story about different animals? They could add animal noises. Is it about vehicles? Can they make engine or horn noises when the cars are mentioned?

## Step 1

### Environmental Sounds

To learn about environmental, instrumental and body percussion sounds, your child will begin to listen to everyday noises and identify their source. They will join in with songs, singing along to different types of instruments. They will use their bodies to copy patterns and rhythms, dance, sing and create sound effects for different stories. At home, you could try using the Twinkl Go games or PowerPoints to practise identifying the different sounds that your child can hear.



### Songs and rhymes

After your child has explored the different sounds around them, they may begin to look at different rhymes. They will learn about words that contain the same stressed vowel sound, identifying different words that sound similar when given choices (for example, dog → log, cat → hat). They will learn and join in with some repeating songs and nursery rhymes, moving in time with the beat and creating actions to go along with the words. Why not have a go at learning and performing some traditional nursery rhymes with your child at home, learning the rhythm and pattern and creating dances and movements to go with it?

## Step 2

## Step 3

### Initial Sounds

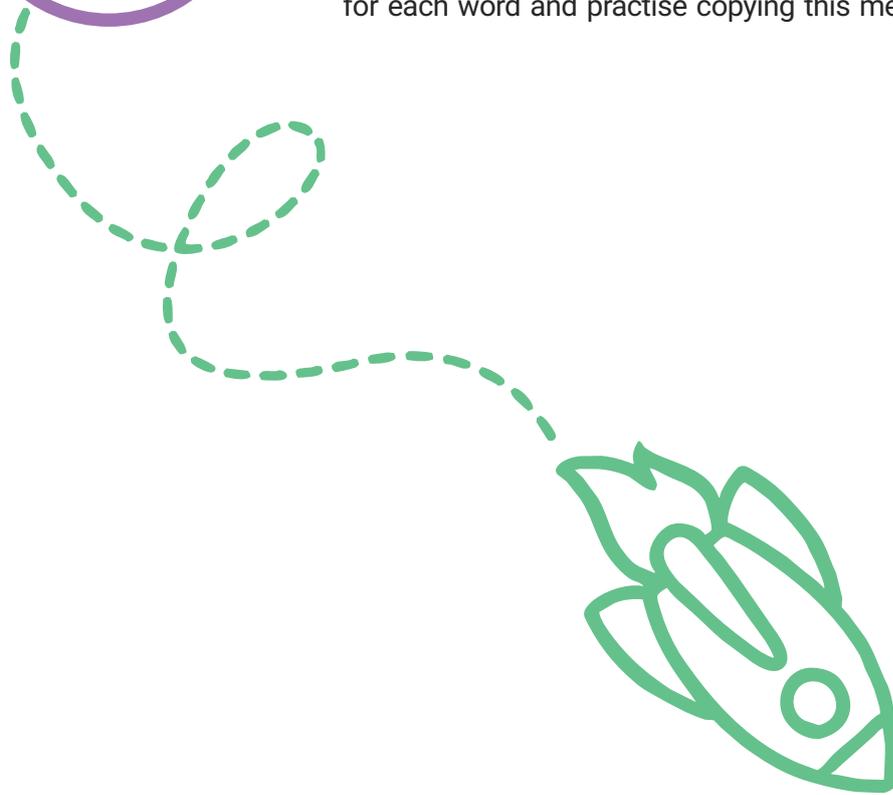
Your child will begin to explore alliteration and voice sounds. Alliteration is when the same sound occurs at the beginning of a set of words (for example, **d**ig, **d**og, **d**ot). This is called an initial sound. They will start to learn to match two items that have the same initial sound and spot which sound appears at the beginning of different words. Voice sounds are when your child uses their mouth to create specific, targeted sounds. They will begin to practise forming different sounds using the shape of their mouth and position of their tongue, making sounds like 'weeeee', and making sounds louder or quieter by shouting or whispering. They will also begin to copy robot and sound talk (where the sounds, or phonemes, are said separately, e.g. c-a-t, p-i-n), Why not introduce these matching cards with your child to link the word/object with the initial sound that it contains (for example, apple → a)?



## Oral blending

### Step 4

Once your child has started to use robot and sound talk, they may be ready to begin using oral blending of words. Blending is the process of joining sounds together to form words (for example, t-a-p → tap). Your child could start to count and clap the phoneme sounds found in CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant - dog, cat, mat, leg) before blending the whole word. For example, d (clap 1), o (clap 2), g (clap 3), dog (clap 4). This farm themed hotspot activity is a great way for your child to hear the sound talk for each word and practise copying this method of blending themselves.



# Explore and Discover More

Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



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Book Club

Twinkl Book Club is our book subscription service. Enjoy our original works of fiction in beautiful printed form, delivered to you each half-term and yours to keep!



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Boost

Twinkl Boost is a range of intervention resources, created to support and lift learning with children at every level. These include our easy-to-use SATs and Phonics Screening resources.



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imagine

Imagine resources are designed to help your children to think creatively, question and imagine. Every week, a new topic consisting of five photos, each with related activities, is created.



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ORIGINALS

Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.



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KIDS' TV

Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!