

What do all the technical words mean?

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| What is a phoneme? | <p>It is the smallest unit of sound and a piece of terminology that children like to use and should be taught. At first it will equate with a letter sound but later on will include the digraphs. For example 'rain' has three phonemes:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/ r / ai / n /</p> |
| What is a grapheme? | <p>A grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent a sound (phoneme) in a word. E.g. ee ea ey all make the same phoneme but are spelt differently.</p> |
| What is a digraph? | <p>This is when two letters come together to make a phoneme.</p> <p>For example: /oa/ as in boat</p> |
| What is a trigraph? | <p>This is when three letters come together to make a phoneme.</p> <p>For example: /igh/ as in light</p> |
| What is blending? | <p>Blending is the process that is involved in bringing the sounds together to make a word and is how /c/ /a/ /t/ becomes cat.</p> <p>To learn to read well children must be able to smoothly blend sounds together. Blending sounds helps to improve fluency when reading.</p> <p>Showing your child how to blend is important. Model how to 'push' sounds smoothly together without stopping at each individual sound.</p> |
| What is segmenting? | <p>Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word cat, it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds; c - a - t.</p> <p>Children often understand segmenting as 'chopping up' a word. Before writing a word young children need time to think about it, say the word several times, 'chop' the word and then write it.</p> |
| What are CVC words? | <p>CVC stands for consonant- vowel- consonant. Examples of CVC words include: cat, mop, tip, sat, pin. In phase 4 children learn CCVC words such as clip, stop.</p> |
| What are tricky words? | <p>Tricky words are words that cannot be 'sounded-out' but need to be learned by heart. They don't fit into the usual spelling patterns.</p> |