



Glossary

Term	Definition
Phoneme	The individual speech sounds which combine to make spoken words.
Grapheme	The written form of a phoneme eg: m, sh, ee
Special friends	A single sound that is represented by two or more letters eg: ch th ay air
Fred Talk	Fred is a frog puppet who joins the children in every session and who can only say sounds. Children are encouraged to sound out words that they cannot read. c-a-t cat sh-o-p shop n-igh-t night

Fred in your head	<p>Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds in their heads.</p> <p>The teacher holds up the word to give children time to mime the sounds and then pushes the card forward as a signal to say the word together until they can say the word straight away.</p> <p>We show children how to do this by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word out loud. 2. Mouthing the sounds and then saying the whole word out loud. 3. Saying the whole word straight away.
Fred fingers	<p>Fred Fingers are used for spelling. Children hold up the hand that they do not write with. They sound out the word they are spelling and put up the correct number of fingers for the word.</p> <p>For example: m-ee-t = 3 sounds = 3 fingers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask your child how many sounds they can hear in the word “meet” • Ask your child to put up their Fred Fingers (there should be three) • Using the hand that your child writes with, they pinch the first finger and say the first sound in the word ‘m’ • Pinch the middle finger and say ‘ee’ • Pinch the last finger and say ‘t’ • Fingers are pinched left to right, as we would read.
Blending	Putting sounds together to read a word.
Segmenting	Breaking a whole word down into its component sounds.
Green words	Words that can be broken down into their sounds and blended together to read.
Red words	Common irregular words that cannot be broken down. These are taught explicitly and children learn to read them by sight.
Alien words	Nonsense words that can only be read by blending sounds together. They are used to assess children’s knowledge of sounds.

