

Get Reading Right

The tools to read and spell



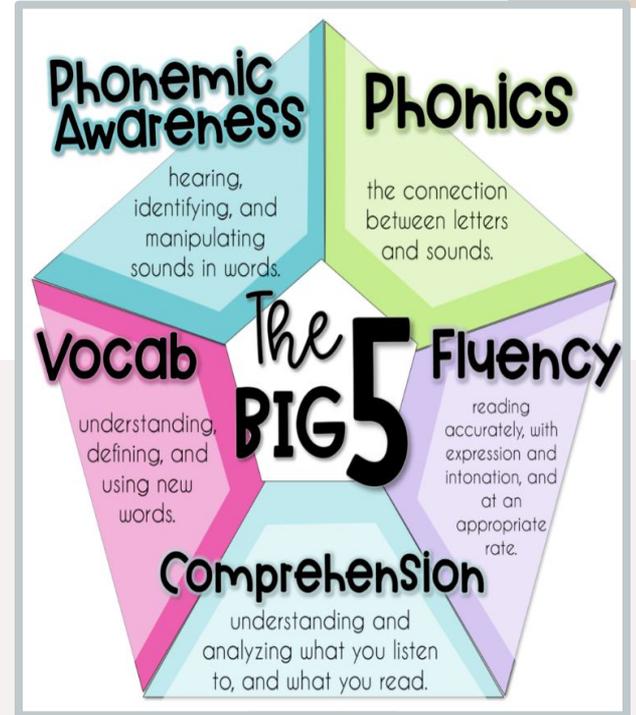
What is phonics?

What is Synthetic Phonics?



What are the five elements of reading?

As reading expert Pamela Snow said “phonics is crucial but not sufficient.” There are 5 key elements which make an established reader. They are:



A. Phonemic Awareness

The ability to hear, focus on and manipulate sounds in a spoken word. For example, a child with good phonemic awareness will be able to tell you which sound to change in the word 'cat' to make it 'cot'.

B. Phonics

The ability to crack the reading and spelling code. Using a child's knowledge of the sounds to lift words from the page.

C. Fluency

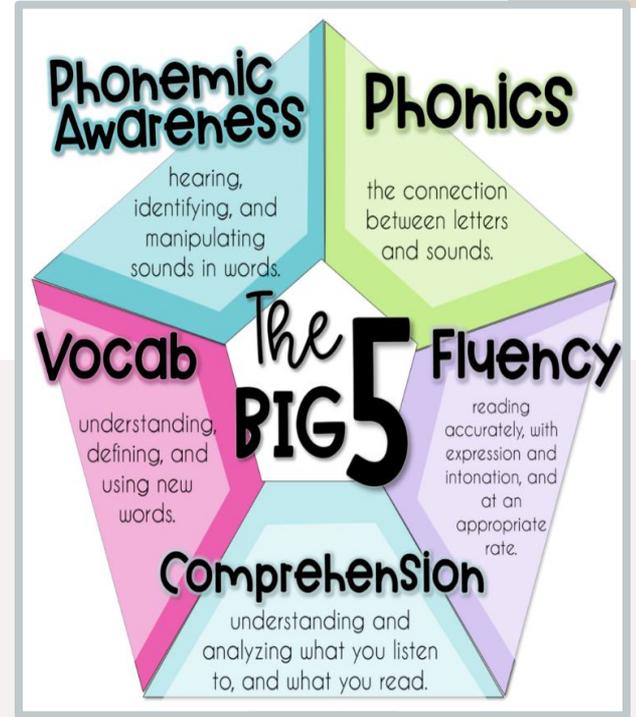
Automatic word recognition to free up headspace for comprehension.

D. Vocabulary

A bank of word knowledge. Vocabulary is an unconstrained skill, which means that there is no limit to learning – whether you are 5 or 35 you can still develop your vocabulary!

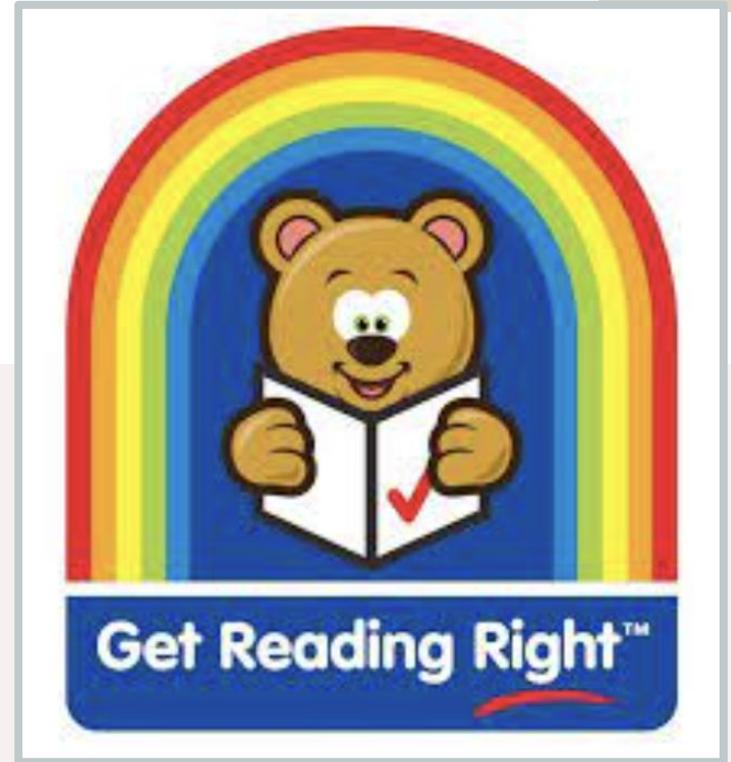
E. Comprehension

To take meaning from text. By teaching phonics to your child we are giving them the key to the physical ability to read, but we then need to lift the words off the page and take meaning from the sentence/passage.



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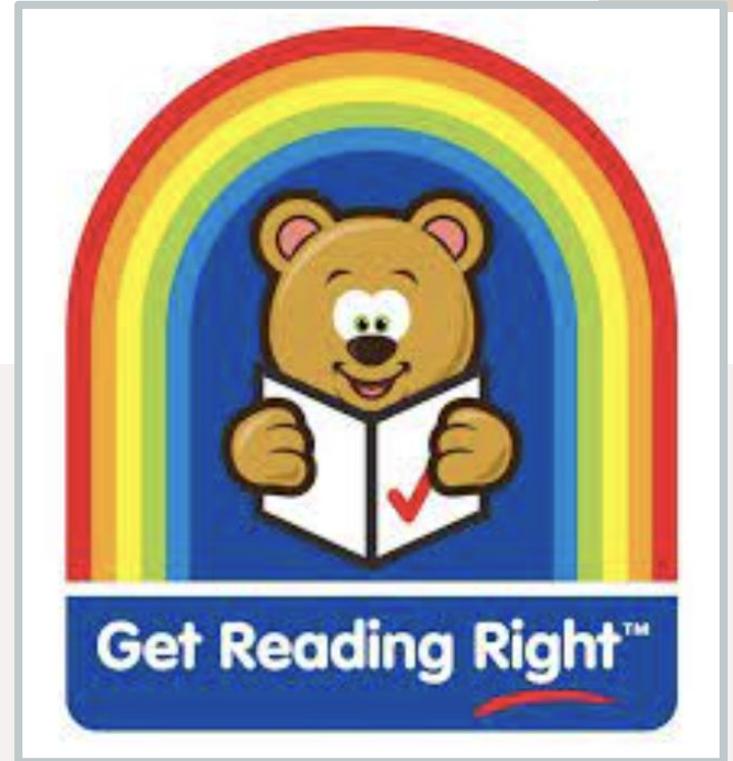
‘The evidence is clear ... that direct systematic instruction in phonics during the early years of schooling is an essential foundation for teaching children to read’



(Department of Education, Science and Training 2005).

Get Reading Right

- It's quick – we do a group of sounds and start reading and spelling right away
- It's thorough – all 44 sounds of the English language are taught (36 in the first year of school)
- It's explicit – no guessing games for your child
- It's systematic – grows in complexity as your child develops
- It's consistent – always the same message about how to read and spell unknown words
- It's efficient – teach both reading and spelling



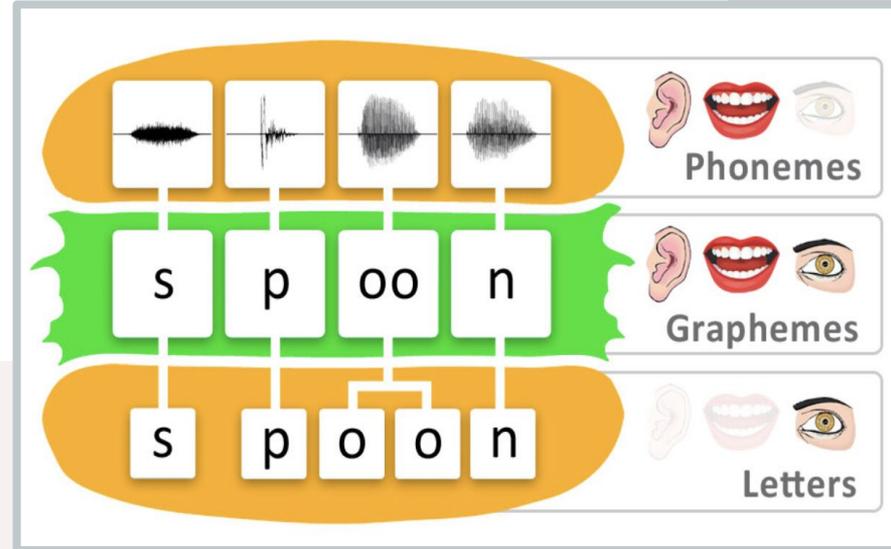
Terminology

Phoneme -smallest speech sound in a word

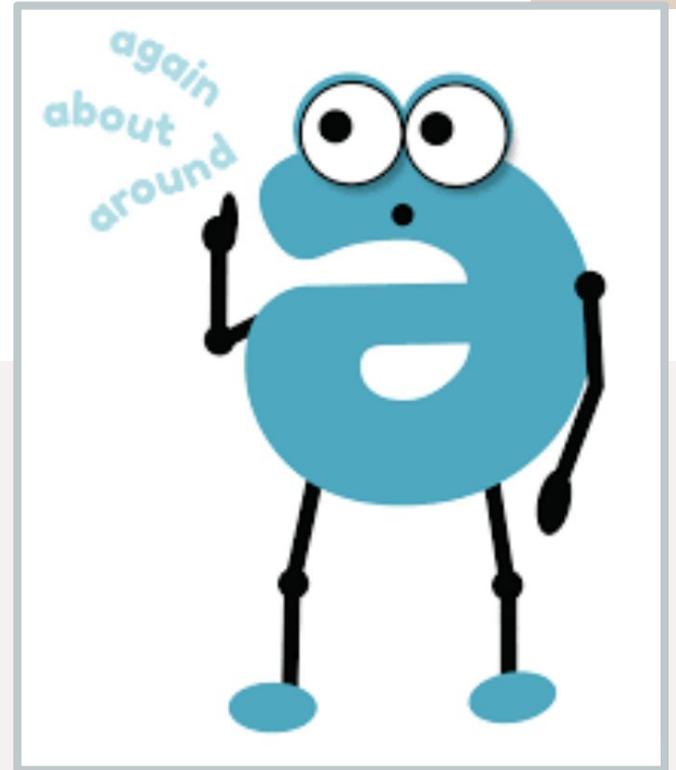
Grapheme- written representation of the phoneme

Blending- the process of combining individual phonemes to form words

Segmenting- is the process of breaking words into their individual phonemes or syllables



Schwa



Camera Words

Not all words can be decoded. We call these tricky words, 'camera words' because children must learn them as though they were taking a photo of the word with their 'mind's eye'. They are encouraged to memorise the part of the word which is tricky.

It is important to remember that very few words need to be learned by sight and that eventually they will be decodable.



How can you help?

- Read everyday
- Ask questions to promote discussions
- Visit the library
- Encourage writing
- Games and puzzles
- Lead by example
- Have fun!

