

## Why Phonics?

By building their Phonics skills and knowledge, children are able to 'decode' new words more quickly and independently. They start by recognising the sound that each letter makes and then identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make i.e 'ch', 'air'. They can then use this knowledge to blend the sounds together to form words ('chair'). By doing this they are then able to tackle unfamiliar words and add to their growing vocabulary.

"Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read. It is particularly helpful for children aged 5 to 7. Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment. Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as 'look and say'. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia. If you would like to find out more about phonics, visit the phonics section of the Department for Education website."

'Learning to Read Through Phonics', Department for Education, 2013.