

Your child is in the 'Photocopied Ditty Group'

Before your daughter/son can start to read, they need to learn to: say the sound that is represented by each letter or groups of letters. These are called 'speed sounds'. They also need to know how to blend the sounds together in a word to read it e.g. c-a-t -> cat. This is called 'sound-blending'.

In Read Write Inc. phonics the individual sounds are called 'speed sounds' - because we want your daughter/son to read them effortlessly. In this Read Write Inc. group children will be taught all the single letter sounds and how to blend these sounds together to read simple CVC (consonant - vowel - consonant) words. The children learn a sound a day.

When your daughter/son learns their Set 1 sounds in school they will learn:

- the letters that represent a speed sound e.g. 'm'
- a simple picture prompt linked to the 'speed sound' and a short phrase to say e.g. 'Maisie mountain mountain'.

Set 1 Sounds are taught in the following order:

Speed Sounds Set 1																
m	a	s	d	t	i	n	p	g	o	c	k	b	f	e	l	h
r	j	v	y	w	z	qu	x	sh	th	ch	nk	ng	ff	ss	ll	

Listening to your child read

Congratulations! Your child has started to bring home their Ditty reading sheets to share with you! The information here will help you to support your child in making steady progress with their reading.

In our school, children read each Read Write Inc. Ditty several times in class with their partner. Re-reading the same Ditty sheet helps children to become confident readers. Each time they re-read, they build their fluency/speed and comprehension. They love reading and want to read because they can read all of the words on the Ditty sheet.

We do not send stories home the children cannot read because we always want them to be set up to succeed in their reading. We want to make sure they enjoy reading so that they want to read.

The more they read, the faster progress they will make.

So after several reads in class, children bring the same Ditty sheet home in their book bag.

They love this because they feel confident about reading it and can't wait to read it to you, their grandparents or even their teddy bear!

Please avoid saying, "This is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this!" They are meant to be able to read all of the words as the Ditty sheet is at the correct level.

Encourage them to share their enjoyment of the story with you and read it in their storyteller voice - again and again. If they hesitate over a word, remind them to read the word using 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word'. For example, this means they spot the 'sh', then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.

Some words are 'tricky' because they contain letters that don't match the sounds the child has been taught. For example, 'said' has 'ai' making an 'e' sound. We teach these common exception words as Red words. In the Ditty sheets, these words are printed in red text. Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red words but instead to stop and think. Tell them the word if needed.

In your child's book bag, they will bring home:

- the Ditty they have read in class to practise reading what they can already read.
- the previous Ditty sheets for extra practice. The children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. Their fluency improves on every reading.
- a picture book to share with you. You can read the story to them or they can retell the story by looking at the pictures. They are not expected to read the story themselves.

The school's expectation is that you hear your children read at least 4 times during the week. This will be monitored weekly by the class teacher.

So, to recap, what can you do to help at home?

1. Listen to your child read the same Read Write Inc. 'Ditty sheet' again and again.
2. Encourage them to use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', 'read the word'.
3. Discuss the story and encourage their storyteller voice.
4. Record their reading, by dating and initialling their reading record.

For more information, there are free video tutorials on the website - www.ruthmiskin.com
Select 'parents' at the top. You can of course also ask your teacher!