



## Quick Reference Guide

Welcome to Anima Phonics! These pages will explain how children are taught to read and write in school.

### What is phonics?

There are 26 letters in the alphabet and each letter has its own 'sound'. For example:



p for pig



m for meerkat

However, there are more than 26 'sounds' in English - there are 44 in fact! - and we use combinations of letters to make these sounds.



sh as in sheep



oa as in goat

A digraph uses two letters to make one sound.

In Anima Phonics, digraphs are coloured green to make them easier to identify.

### Why learn phonics?

Children need a clear and consistent method to use when reading and writing. Learning to read with phonics is much easier and simpler than trying to memorise thousands of words!

Decades of research tells us that teaching children the phonics 'code' is the quickest way to unlocking the English language.

## How is phonics taught in school?

Each 'sound' is introduced with a poem and action to aid speedy recall. These are all shown on the following pages.

The 44 sounds are gradually introduced in a systematic order.

### Phonics glossary

#### Phoneme

A sound as it is said aloud.

#### Grapheme

A sound as it is written.

#### Blending

This involves looking at a written word and merging the phonemes together to make the word. This is the basis of reading.

#### Segmenting

This involves splitting a word up into phonemes and writing the matching graphemes on the page. This is the basis of spelling.



p for pig

ACTION:



Pop bubbles in the air.



a for ant

ACTION:



Pretend to take a bite from an apple.

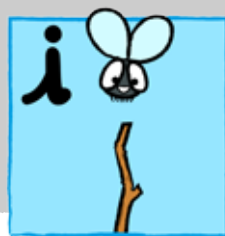


t for tiger

ACTION:



Tap on your wristwatch.



i for insect

ACTION:



Use your fingers to show how Insect lands on the stick



n for newt

ACTION:



Make a pillow with your hands and take a nap.



ch for cheetah

ACTION:



Give yourself a cuddle as you chatter in the chill.



s for snake

ACTION:



Wiggle your hand like a slithering snake.



ee as in eel

ACTION:



Press your car horn to make the sound 'ee'.



m for meerkat

ACTION:



Hold up your meerkat paws, and smell the mangoes.



ar as in alarm

ACTION:



Shake your hands above your head like an alarm clock.



e for elephant

ACTION:



Raise your hands to your mouth and call out an echo.



c for crab

ACTION:



Make crab claws with your hands.



d for dog

ACTION:



Dig like a dog.



o for octopus

ACTION:



Draw a circle in the air with your finger.



sh for sheep

ACTION:



Put your finger to your lips and say 'sh'.



g for gorilla

ACTION:



Beat your chest like a gorilla.



u for umbrella

ACTION:



Hide under your umbrella arms.



b for bear

ACTION:



Bounce a ball.



ng as in lemming

ACTION:



Pull the rope to ring the bell.



oa as in goat

ACTION:



Row a boat.



r for rat

ACTION:



Raise your rocket hands up into space.



h for hen

ACTION:



Fan your mouth as if you have eaten a hot chilli.



or as in tortoise

ACTION:



Pull the cord to sound the horn.



f for frog

ACTION:



Use your fireman's hose to put out the fire.



oo as in rook

ACTION:



Look through your binoculars and shrug.



oo as in goose

ACTION:



Look through your binoculars and lean forward.



l for lion

ACTION:



Rub your wrist on your chin, as if licking your paw.



ai as in alien

ACTION:



Take your aim, and throw an acorn.

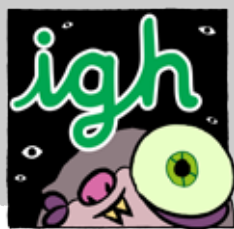


w for worm

ACTION:



Roll your hands over each other like a washing machine.



igh as in eye-eye

ACTION:



Rest your finger on your cheek and point to your eye.



th as in moth

ACTION:



Gently flap your hands like the wings of a moth in the day.



th as in the

ACTION:



Quickly flap your hands like a moth's wings at night.



ear for earwig

ACTION:



Tug one of your ears.



j for jellyfish

ACTION:



Juggle balls in the air.



ou as in owl

ACTION:



Rub your head as if you've had a bump.



ur for urchin

ACTION:



Twist the cap to free Urchin from the bottle.

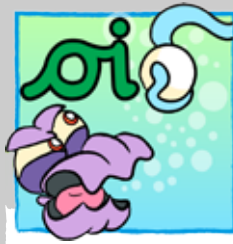


y for yak

ACTION:



Hold your nose to block out the yucky smell.



oi as in oyster

ACTION:



Hide behind your arms, like an oyster's shell, then pop out!



z for zebra

ACTION:



Fasten your zip.



v for vulture

ACTION:



Snap your hands below your chin like a Venus flytrap.



air as in aeroplane

ACTION:



Fly your hand through the air like an aeroplane.



x as in fox

ACTION:



Make a cross with your arms like Agent Fox.



qu for quail

ACTION:



Place a queen's crown on your head.



ew as in unicorn

ACTION:



Put your finger on your head to make a unicorn horn.

## How can parents support at home?

**Make reading part of your daily routine** - children who read at home, even just for a few minutes each day, make really noticeable progress compared to those who do not.

**No distractions** - find a quiet space to read aloud together, asking your child to help out if they know any of the sounds.

**Practising sounds and actions** - following how they are taught in school is one of the best ways to support children in reading.

**Talk about what they are reading** - talk before, during and after reading a book. Talk, talk, talk!

**Forget the alphabet (for now)** - whilst it's tempting to use the names of the letters, this doesn't help a child when trying to read a word. Only refer to the sounds the letters make.

**Identify tricky words** - Before reading with your child, identify any words that might be difficult, so that they have confidence when they see the word in the book.

**Be patient** - give children time to decipher words. Encourage your child to point a finger at each sound and then slide their finger along the word to blend the sounds together.

