

A Parent Guide to

Phase 3 Phonics

For Ages 4 - 5

What Is This Guide?

What do we mean by 'Phase 3 Phonics'? In the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (known as EYFS), there are some expectations laid out for how children generally develop in the ways they write and read. The method most widely used is called phonics. This guide can help you understand what development might look like for your child and how you can help them.

This guide breaks down the phonics into its simple sections, providing you with explanations of what reading and writing might look like for your child at this stage of their learning. Each area has ideas for supporting your child fun and engaging activities, whether your child is beginning to recognise more sounds within their environment or they are becoming more confident with forming some letters.

Rather than a list of must-do activities, you can dip in and out of these prompts and ideas based on your child's current interests and appropriate stage of development.

You can visit the **parent section** of the Twinkl site for even more resources to support your child in phonics, as well as all other areas of learning. Either search for keywords used in this guide or explore more in the Birth to 5 section.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read using sounds and symbols that combine to create a phonetic alphabet that can be used to blend words together. At this stage, your child will probably begin to explore a wider range of phonemes (sounds). This will include not only single letter phonemes, but also some sounds that are represented by two or three letters (e.g. ch, sh, qu, ee, ai, igh, ear, air).

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening are the first communication skills your child will develop before they begin their reading and writing journey. Encouraging lots of talk at home, as part of everyday life, will help support your child's own vocabulary and conversation skills. Explain what you are doing and ask them questions, making sure to wait for their response.

Letters and Sounds

Letters (also referred to as graphemes) and sounds (which are referred to as phonemes) are taught in six phases throughout your child's early school education. During these phases, children learn how to listen carefully to identify the sounds they can hear within simple words and practice recognising and forming letters which make those spoken sounds.

Children develop rapidly in their first five years, more so than any other period of their young life. Although these guides have been divided by age band, we recognise that all children develop at different rates. This guide should not be used as a tick list of exactly what your child should be able to do at this age, but rather as an indicator of what they may be working towards.

Phase 3 Phonics

Phase three is the third phase of phonics that will be taught to children typically in reception. This phase is a continuation of the skills learnt during phase 2, in which the remaining alphabet sounds are taught as well as some sounds which have two or three sounds in them. These are known as digraphs (two letters, e.g. sh, ch, th) and trigraphs (three letters, e.g. igh, ear, air.) Throughout this phase of phonics, children will continue to practise blending and segmenting a wider range of CV and CVC words; read more tricky words and begin to spell them; and start to read more familiar words by sight, rather than decoding them.

26 new sounds are taught during phase 3. Like phase 2, the letters and their corresponding sounds are taught in sets each week, typically 3-4 sounds per week.

The letters in phase 3 are often taught in this sequence:

Set 6	Set 7	Digraphs	Trigraphs
j v w x	y z, zz qu	ch sh th ng ai ee oa oo ar or ur ow oi er	igh ear air ure

CVC Words

As children develop their phonic knowledge and begin to recognise a wider range of letters and their corresponding sounds, they will be taught how to read CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant words, e.g. cat, pin, mop) with increasing speed. During this phase, it is important that children recognise digraphs and trigraphs as a single sound, rather than separate letters, e.g. sh-o-p not s-h-o-p. And l-igh-t not l-i-g-h-t.

Tricky Words

During this phase, as well as consolidating the tricky words that were previously taught during phase 2, children will also be exposed to some new tricky words: words that cannot be sounded out. The tricky words taught in phase 3 include:

he, she, we, me, be, was, my, you, her, they, all.

Phase 3 Phonics

How is your child progressing with their phonics skills?



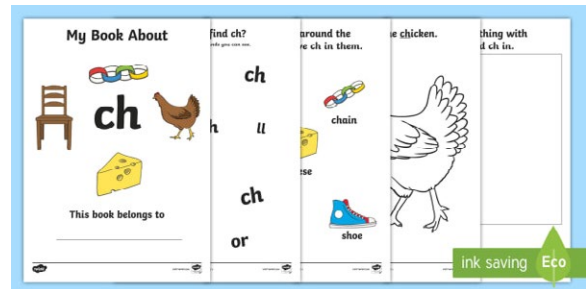
Level 3 Phonics Matching Bingo Game

Have any moments stood out to you as a special memory?



Recycling with Emily: Phase 3 Phonics Pairing Game

As your child develops their mark-making skills, encourage them to do some writing each day in different ways. Get them writing their name on anything they make, create labels for toys, try to write words alongside drawings or make cards together for different occasions. If your child isn't ready to write full words, help build their confidence by forming letters instead.



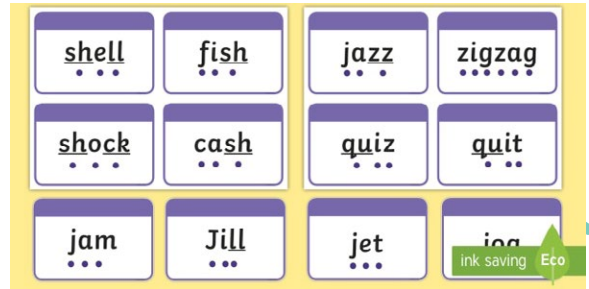
My Phase 3 Digraph Workbook (ch)



Phase 3 Phonics



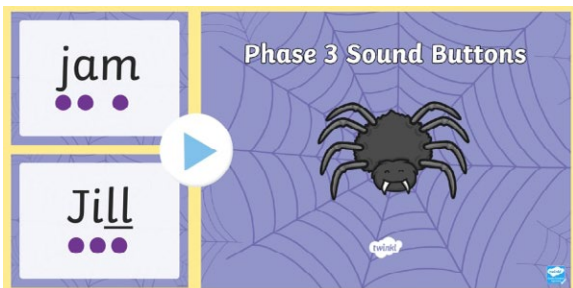
Phase 3 Activity Pack



Phase 3 Words - Sound Button Word Cards

As your child learns more letters and sounds, create a pack of cards with each card having one of the phase 3 sounds written on it (you can print Twinkl's Phase 3 Phoneme Flash Cards or make your own using card). Expose your child regularly to the cards, increasing the speed at which you show them and ask them to say the sound they see.

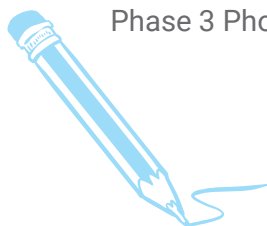
Active phonics is a great way to engage learners who prefer to be outside doing big movements. Why not create a CVC frame outside using masking tape? This is just three big boxes next to each other. You can then challenge your child to write a CVC word inside the boxes using chunky chalks. Phase 3 CVC words might include: f-o-x, j-o-g and y-e-s.



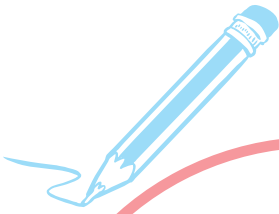
Phase 3 Sound Button PowerPoint



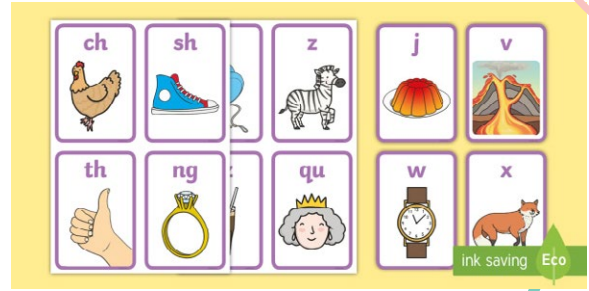
Phase 3 Phoneme Flash Cards



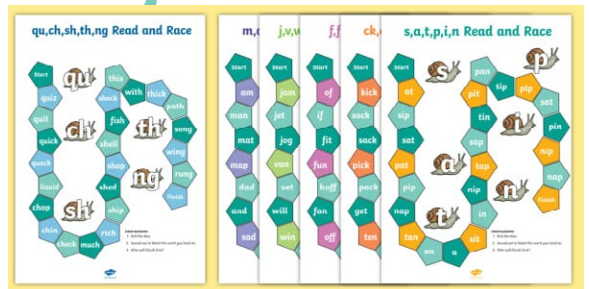
Phase 3 Phonics



Read, read, read! Sharing books together is the most powerful way for children to begin noticing new words and increase their vocabulary. At this stage in their development, your child may be bringing home decodable books. Encourage them to read a page or two a day, while continuing to read a range of different books to them before bedtime.



Phase 3 Flashcards



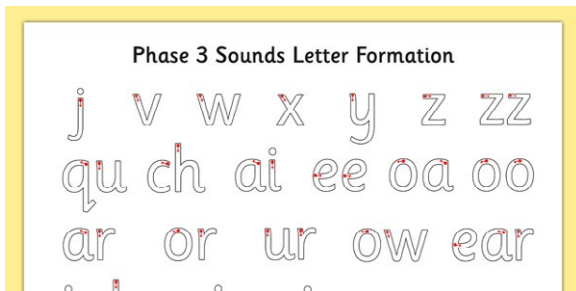
Pack 2 & 3 Phonics Read and Race Game Bumper Activity Pack



Phase 3 Phonics Playdough Recipe and Mat Pack



Which of these phonics activities have you used with your child?



Phase 3 Sounds Letter Formation Worksheet

Progress Page

It's always exciting to see progress in the way our children read and write. It's also important to remember special memories and achievements, even if they can't be ticked off from a learning checklist. Use this page to record some of the special moments you've had with your little one while learning about phonics.

Journal nice moments
or record key
dates here:

Stick a photo of your child here:

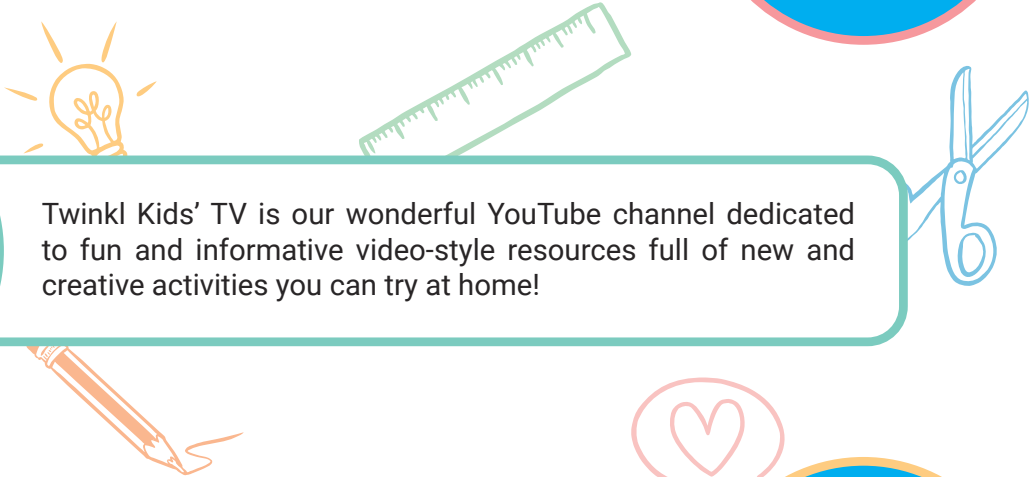
Explore and Discover More



Twinkl Go! is a digital platform, hosting interactive content such as videos, games, audiobooks and more. Twinkl Go! enables digital content to be streamed to your computer or mobile device.



Twinkl Kids' TV is our wonderful YouTube channel dedicated to fun and informative video-style resources full of new and creative activities you can try at home!



Twinkl Originals are engaging stories written to inspire children from EYFS to KS2. Designed to encourage a love of reading and help curriculum-wide learning through accompanying resources.

