

Essential Letters and Sounds Glossary

Blend	To draw individual sounds together to pronounce words for example s-n-a-p, blended together, reads 'snap'
Blending Hands	Clap your hands (silently) as you blend the sounds together to say the whole word
Decodable Texts	A text which contains only the sounds and HRS words that the child already knows. Every child should be able to read these books independently and to re-read the text 4 times to build fluency. Listen to how your child's fluency and expression develops with each read. NB. Some of these books will be eBooks.
Digraph	Two letters making one sound: for example <ch> <th> <sh> <ng>
Grapheme	A letter or a group of letters representing one phoneme: for example, sh, ch, igh
Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence (GPC)	The relationship between sounds and the letters which represent those sounds also known as letter-sound correspondence
Harder to read and spell words (HRS)	Words that children will find harder to read and spell as they will not have been taught the relevant GPCs.
Segment	To split up words into its individual phonemes in order to spell it; for example, the word 'cat' has three phonemes /c/ /a/ /t/. Children are asked to count the individual sounds in the word to help them to spell it.
Shared Text	A text that contains some sounds and HRS words that have not yet been taught. These texts should be read with an adult supporting the child.
Sounds/Phoneme	The smallest single identifiable sound in a word: for example, the word 'rain' has three phonemes (/r/ /ai/ /n/)
Sound talk	Oral sounding out of a word: for example c-a-t
Split digraph	Two vowels that make one sound but are split by one or more consonants: for example, <a-e>, <e-e> <i-e> <o-e> <u-e>
Trigraph	Three letters making one sound: for example <igh>