# How to say the sounds:

This guide has been created to help you support your child with phonics at home.

The pronunciation phrases shown in this document are the same language used by staff when teaching phonics in school. They are designed to help children learn the **pure sounds** needed for reading and spelling.

As children progress through the Little Wandle programme, they learn that some sounds can be represented in different ways. In **Phase 5**, children begin to explore alternative spellings for sounds they already know. These alternative spellings are shown in the **right-hand column** of the guide.

For example, the sound **ai** can also be written as:

- ay
- a-e
- eigh
- ey

Learning these alternatives helps children become more confident and fluent readers and writers.

### Top Tips for Supporting Your Child at Home

- Focus on saying the **sound**, not the letter name.
- Keep sounds short and pure, for example **mmmm** not *muh* and **ssss** not *suh*.
- Encourage your child to spot sounds they recognise when reading.
- Revisit sounds regularly to support confidence and fluency.
- Praise effort and enjoyment as well as accuracy.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey at home.

## Sounds introduced in Phase 2

| Grapheme and mnemonic | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|
|  | Show your teeth and let the **s** hiss out **ssssss ssssss** | c se ce st sc |
|  | Open your lips a bit; put your tongue behind your teeth and make the **nnnnn** sound **nnnnn** | kn gn |
|  | Put your lips together and make the **mmmmm** sound **mmmmm** | mb |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | Open your mouth into a little smile; make your tongue flat and move it up towards the top of your mouth to say **c c c** | ch |
|  | Show me your teeth to make a **rrrr** sound **rrrrr** | wr |
|  | Open your lips a little; put your teeth on your bottom lip and push the air out to make the sound **fffff fffff** | ph |
|  | Open your mouth a little; put your tongue up to the top of your mouth, behind your teeth, and press **llllll llllll** | le al |
|  | Pucker your lips and show your teeth; use your tongue as you say **j j j** | g dge ge |
|  | Put your teeth against your bottom lip and make a buzzing sound **vvvvv vvvvv** | ve |

| Grapheme and mnemonic | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|
|  | Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say **w w w** | wh |
|  | Show me your teeth and buzz the **z** sound **zzzzz zzzzz** | se ze |
|  | Pucker your lips and show your teeth; use your tongue as you say **ch ch ch** | tch ture* |
|  | Show me your teeth and push the air out **shshshshshsh** | ch ti ssi si ci |
|  | Open your mouth wide and say **e e e** | ea |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | Pull your lips back and make the **i** sound at the back of your mouth **i i i** | y |
|  | Make your mouth into a round shape and say **o o o** | a |
|  | Open your mouth wide and say **u u u** | o-e o ou |

*Note that the pronunciation of 'ture' has a slight schwa sound at the end.

## Sounds introduced in Phase 3

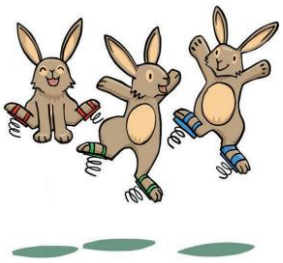
| Grapheme | Catchphrase | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|---|
| ai |  tail in the rain | Open your mouth wide and say **ai ai ai** | a<br>y<br>a<br>a-<br>e<br>eig<br>h<br>aig<br>h<br>ey<br>ea |
| ee |  sheep in a jeep | Smile with your lips apart and say **ee ee ee** | e<br>a<br>e<br>e-<br>e<br>ie<br>y<br>ey |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| igh | <br>a light in the night | Open your mouth in a relaxed way and say **igh igh igh** | i<br>e<br>i<br>i<br>-<br>e<br>y |
| oa | <br>soap that goat | Make an 'o' with your mouth and say **oa oa oa** | o<br>o-<br>e<br>ou<br>oe<br>ow |

| Grapheme | Catchphrase | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|---|
| oo | <br>zoom to the moon | Open your mouth just a bit, put your hand on your tummy, pull your tummy in and say **oo oo oo** | ue<br>u<br>-<br>e<br>e<br>w<br>ou<br>ui |
| yoo | | Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say **yoo yoo yoo** | u<br>e<br>u<br>u<br>-e<br>ew |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| oo | <br>hook a book | Open your mouth just a bit, put your hand on your tummy, pull your tummy in and say **oo oo oo** | **u***<br>**oul** |
| ar | <br>march in the dark | Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down and say **ar ar ar** | **a***<br>**al** |

| Grapheme | Catchphrase | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|---|
| or | <br>born with a horn | Make an 'o' with your mouth, push your tongue down and say **or or or** | **a**<br>**w**<br>**au**<br>**au**<br>**r**<br>**oo**<br>**r**<br>**al**<br>**a**<br>**oa**<br>**r**<br>**or**<br>**e** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ur | <br>curl the fur | Open your mouth in a relaxed way, push your tongue down and say **ur** **ur ur** | **e**<br>**r**<br>**i**<br>**r**<br>**o**<br>**r** |
| ow | <br>wow owl | Open your mouth wide then move your lips together as you say **ow** **ow ow** | **ou** |
| oi | <br>boing boing | Make an 'o' with your mouth then move your lips out as you say **oi** **oi oi** | **oy** |

| Grapheme | Catchphrase | Pronunciation phrase | Phase 5 Graphemes |
|---|---|---|---|
| ear | <br>get near to hear | Smile with your lips apart, push your tongue to your teeth as you say **ear ear ear** | **er**<br>**e**<br>**ea**<br>**r** |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| air |  chair in the air | Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down as you say **air air air** | ar<br>e<br>er<br>e<br>ea<br>r |
| zh | | Pucker your lips and show your teeth; push the air over your tongue as you say **zh zh** | s<br>u<br>s<br>i |

*depending on regional accent