



Read Write Inc.
A Parent's Guide

Fred Talk:

Your child will now have been introduced to a class toy called Fred; Fred is a frog and he will help your child read and spell words.

Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. Fred will say the sounds and children will work out the word. For example, Fred will say the sounds **c-a-t**, and children will say the word **cat**. This is **Fred Talk**: sounding out the word.

Books for Bags:

Books for Bags are reading books that have been developed to consolidate learning from speed sound phonics sessions. Each book has a series of Green Words, Red Words and Sounds focuses.

Children will bring these home as soon as they can blend independently. Children must read these at home three times - once for accuracy, another for fluency and finally to understand the text. Each book has a series of questions in the back that could be discussed with your children.



Red and Green Words:

Red Words are those words which contain spelling patterns that cannot be sounded out. Some of the most frequently used words in the English Language have an uncommon spelling pattern and don't sound like they look, for example, said sounds 'sed'.

Red Words have to be learned by sight. These words are printed in red in the story books. Learning to read red words is a very important part of reading and one which you can help with at home.

You can get a list of **red words** from your class teacher. They must be read on sight and remember, **'You can't Fred a Red'**

Green Words:

Green Words are words that your child will be able to blend together using the speed sounds they have learned.

Your child will be able to read a book more easily if they practice reading these words first.



RWI is a phonic based approach to teaching reading. It involves children learning to read sounds and how to blend them together to read words

RWI is a successful reading programme that enables every child to become a confident and fluent reader at the first attempt. It aims to teach all children to read at a pace that they are comfortable with.

The children learn 44 sounds (speed sounds). These are the letter **sounds** and not the letter **names**. The speed sounds are divided into smaller sub-groups. Once your child has learned all the sounds in one group, they can move **onto sound blending** the letters in that group to be able to read words

Speed Sound Groups:

1. **m a s d t**
2. **i n p g o**
3. **c k u b**
4. **f e l h sh**
5. **r j v y w**
6. **z x sh th ch qu ng nk**

For example, once your child has learned to read the first 5 sounds: **m a s d t** they can then start to read words that include these sounds, such as: **mat, sat, sad, mad, at etc.** From this point, they may also bring home a sound blending book - this is to support your child blending these sounds.

Types of sounds:

Pure Sounds:

When teaching the speed sounds it is very important that you do not add an intrusive 'uh' to the end of the consonant sound. Try to pronounce them as **pure** sounds: 'mmmm' not 'muh'; 'ffff' not 'fuh' and 'llll' not 'luh'

Bouncy and stretchy sounds:

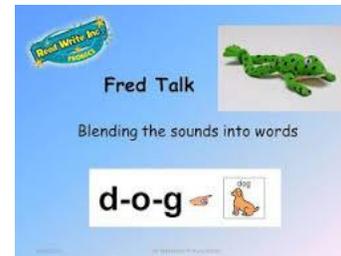
To help your child remember his or her sounds we say that some make a stretchy sound and some make a bouncy sound.

Stretchy sounds: are said in one continuous sound, e.g. mmmmmmm as in mountain.

Bouncy sounds: are said with a short, sharp gap in between, e.g. d-d-d as in d-d-d-dinosaur.

Sound Blends:

Your child is ready to sound blend once they have learned the first set of sounds and say these in and out of order. In school we call blending and segmenting **Fred Talk**.



How can I use RWI at home?

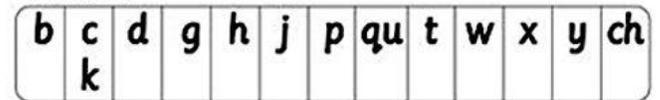
1. Help your child to learn the speed sounds below.
2. Help your child learn to read words by segmenting and blending (We call this **FRED TALK** in school)
3. Help your child read short sentences in their Ditty Book
4. Read their RWI storybook with them regularly

Simple Speed Sounds

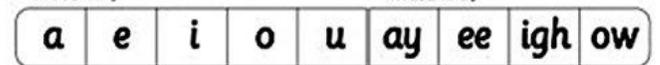
Consonant sounds - stretchy



Consonant sounds - bouncy



Vowel sounds - bouncy



Vowel sounds - stretchy

Vowel sounds - stretchy

