

Phonics assessment and intervention

Phonics is the key to being able to read. The Reading Framework stresses that children who are falling behind with their reading need swift intervention using Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP).

It is important to spend some time at the start of Year 2 assessing the children's reading and addressing any gaps in their phonics skills and knowledge.

Children who have significant gaps

You may find that a small number of children have more significant gaps in their learning for various reasons, including diagnosed or suspected SEND or simply having had significant time off school. These children need a more intensive phonics intervention to help them catch up. Rapid Phonics is an effective intervention that breaks phonics down into small steps and re-teaches all of the common GPCs. Its pick-up-and-go lesson plans are designed to be used with small groups and can be effectively used by both teachers and TAs. The accompanying fully-decodable books are specially designed to appeal to children aged 6 and up to keep their motivation high.

Children who need additional practice or consolidation before moving on

Near the start of Year 2, it's helpful to use your SSP to assess children's phonics and decoding skills, checking that they are all able to read words containing the grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) introduced in Year 1. If you find gaps in children's knowledge, you can then use your SSP to help you systematically teach the relevant graphemes and phonemes. Bug Club Phonics has built-in assessment and includes advice on how to address these gaps quickly to ensure children can both access the wider curriculum and progress in their reading.

Children who are reading as expected for their age may also need to recap some of their Year 1 phonics learning near the start of Year 2 to consolidate their learning. Both Bug Club Phonics and Bug Club Independent offer a range of fully decodable books up to the end of Phase 5, followed by mostly decodable (except for a small number of non-decodable words which are introduced before reading) Orange level Bug Club Independent books to ease the transition to reading beyond phonics.

