

Telford Infant School



Glossary of terms for Phonics

Phoneme - a unit of sound. The word 'cat' has 3 phonemes, so has 'fish' and 'church'; 'milk' has 4, so does 'start'.

digraph - a unit of sound made up of 2 letters eg 'ai' as in 'rain' or 'ee' as in keep.

trigraph - a unit of sound made up of 3 letters eg 'igh' as in 'light' or 'air' as in 'chair'

grapheme - what the phoneme looks like when it is written down

segmenting - 'sounding out', separating a word into phonemes - c-a-t, ch-air, p-l-a-n-t

blending - putting the phonemes back together into a word

Helping at home

- Sing nursery rhymes and rhyming stories
- Read poems
- Read lots of stories
- Play games such as 'I Spy...', 'My Granny went to market'
- Use flashcards to play matching pairs or snap
- Spot words and letters when you are out and about - on signs, number plates, in magazines...
- You may need to repeat the phonemes so that your child can hear the whole word
- Encourage children to segment the words they want to write
- Encourage 'real' writing - shopping lists, cards, labels, invitations
- Encourage correct letter formation