

A parents guide to phonics reading books (F2)

What Are Decodable Books?

Decodable books are special reading books that use the sounds (phonics) your child has already learned in school.

Each word can be **sounded out** using the letters and sounds your child knows.

These books help your child become a confident, fluent reader step by step.



What Is the SoundsWrite Programme?

SoundsWrite is the phonics scheme your child learns at school. It teaches children to:

- Hear the sounds in words.
- Read the letter symbols used to spell these sounds.
- Blend sounds to read words.
- Spell words by writing the sounds they hear.

Your child learns in small steps, starting with simple words (like cat, sun, dog) and then longer, trickier ones.

How You Can Help at Home?

1. 📖 The teacher will send home a decodable book matched to your child's SoundsWrite stage. Don't worry if it looks easy — it's meant to give your child confidence and lots of practice doing sounds they have learned. Read it as often as you can but **more than once** during the week.

2. 👤 Help Your Child Sound Out Words

•Point to each letter and say the sound:

- Example: **c-a-t**

•Then help your child blend the sounds together:

- "c-a-t ... cat!"

•Keep it calm and positive — praise your child for trying. **We DO NOT use letter names when reading and writing – only the sounds.** Here is a link to a video of how to say each sound in the alphabet: <https://youtu.be/qB15zbdu3pU>

3. Once children have read a 2-3 words by sounding them out and blending them, repeat these words until they can say them without blending. This will help to sound less like a robot when reading. Repeat this for all the words in the sentence sounding them out and re-reading them with a "story voice." Here is a video of how to read words and sentences with children;

<https://youtu.be/SUA7Ye6mdyk>

4. 👂 Listen for the Sounds

Encourage your child to listen for sounds in words you use every day.

For example:

- "What sounds can you hear in *sun*?" → /s/ /u/ /n/
- "Can you find something that starts with /m/?"

5. 💬 Talk About the Story

After reading, talk about what happened in the book: "Who was in the story?" "What happened at the end?" "Did you like the story? Why?"

This helps your child understand what they read and build new English words.

6. ✍️ Link Reading and Writing

You can help your child write simple words from the book:

- Say the word slowly (e.g., *dog*).
- Ask: "What sounds do you hear?"
- Write the sounds down together.