

Success for All



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1st March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Phonics is an important part of teaching children how to read unfamiliar words. However, until children have learned certain letter-sound combinations, there are lots of common words found in books that they will struggle to read using a purely phonic approach. These are called 'exception' or 'tricky' words. Learning how to read and spell these words automatically helps children to become more fluent readers and writers.

We have grouped the 'tricky' words according to the order we teach them. Repeated practise of reading and spelling these words is crucial in helping young children to commit them to memory. This can be done by:

- Using flashcards (to develop instant recognition of the word)
- Finding the words in books, magazines, newspapers etc.
- Spotting words within words, e.g. in-to
- Pointing out spelling patterns, e.g. he, be, she
- Playing games, e.g. word bingo, hide and seek
- Encouraging children to write over a word repeatedly whilst saying the letter names out loud

You will find a 'tricky word' character in the back of your child's reading record. When you are confident that your child has learned how to read and spell all of the words, please let us know. You can do this by writing a comment in your child's reading record which will be checked on book change days. We recommend repeated practise. If your child can read and spell them, check again a few more times on different days to ensure their learning has been committed to memory. We will check this in school and award incentives as children make progress every Friday during our celebration afternoon.

There is no need to race through the sets! We will give your child a new 'tricky word' character once they have been taught the next set of words in school and we are seeing evidence of them applying the previous set in reading and writing activities.



Tricky word characters:

Character	Words	Reward
Tortoise	7 words	Sticker
Ladybird	6 words	5 house points
Owl	8 words	Pencil
Dinosaur	9 words	10 house points
Caterpillar	6 words	Pencil topper
Butterfly	6 words	15 house points
Giraffe	6 words	Sticker, certificate & notebook

Have fun learning the tricky words together!

Kind Regards,
The EYFS Team