**Reading at Lilac Level**

Watch this video:[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=4&v=1-wud5ndvuE&feature=emb\_logo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=1-wud5ndvuE&feature=emb_logo)

This first reading stage is slightly different to all the others that follow as this stage focuses on teaching pre-reading skills. Before your child is able to read words by saying the sounds and blending them together there are some key skills they need that will enable them to succeed. This stage may last for part or all of their time in Nursery or may continue into early Reception.

When reading at Lilac stage :

* Reread books regularly. It will help your child to know some books by heart or to join in with repeated phrases (fee-fi-fo-fum!)
* Use the short sounds sss, mmm not suh, muh when talking about letters together.
* Point to each word as you read.
* Talk about what might happen next in the book.
* Encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages themselves.
* Talk about the pictures alongside reading the text.

What is your child learning :

To identify the words and the pictures and to be able to track text with 1:1 correspondence ie. Point to one word at a time as they ‘read’ the book.

To recognise some first words eg the, to, no, go, I.

To develop their working memory by learning the pattern of text eg I see a red pencil…I see a blue pencil…I see a yellow pencil… This gives children confidence and helps them feel like a ‘reader’

To begin to recognise letters and sounds that are important to them eg. letters from their name, names of people or places they know.

To get to know the characters and their names from our reading schemes.

To learn individual letter sounds and practise hearing these sounds in words.

**Reading at Pink Level**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc)

* Reread books three times – the first time for enjoyment and an overview of the story, the second time focus on phonics, the third time build up fluency and pace.
* Use the short sounds sss, mmm not suh, muh when sounding out words together.
* Point to each word as you read.
* Talk about what might happen next in the book.
* Reread sentences your child has found difficult to sound out so that they keep the meaning.
* Try not to interrupt and tell them the word.
* Encourage your child to hold the book and turn the pages themselves.
* Talk about the pictures alongside reading the text.

Be patient – reading books independently at pink level is hard work.

These are the sounds your child learns at pink level:



These are the words your child should be able to read on sight at pink level:

to the no go I into

**Reading at Red Level**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqvqMtSNswo**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqvqMtSNswo)

* Reread books three times – the first time for enjoyment and an overview of the story, the second time focus on phonics, the third time build up fluency and pace.
* Help them learn the phonics tricky words for phase 3 so they have a bank of words they don’t have to sound out.
* Talk about the pictures alongside reading the text.
* Recap the story so far with your child so they maintain meaning.
* Try not to interrupt – can your child spot when they make mistakes?
* Help your child to spot digraphs (two letters one sound) and trigraphs (three letters one sound) in the words they read.

Be patient – reading books independently at red level is hard work.

These are the sounds your child learns at red level:



These are the words your child should be able to read on sight at pink level:

her we she me be they you all are he was my

**Reading at Yellow Level**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGkwTgcsW54&list=PLB5TN0ac12P97k0x0Xvn8K46bw-vTTeUD&index=1**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGkwTgcsW54&list=PLB5TN0ac12P97k0x0Xvn8K46bw-vTTeUD&index=1)

* Reread books three times – the first time for enjoyment and an overview of the story, the second time focus on phonics, the third time build up fluency and pace.
* Help them learn the phonics tricky words for phase 4 so they have a bank of words they don’t have to sound out.
* Ask your child questions about what they have read. Talk about the story to develop their understanding.
* Encourage your child to reread sentences they have found difficult so that they keep the meaning.
* Try not to interrupt – can your child spot when they make mistakes?
* Help your child to spot digraphs (two letters one sound) and trigraphs (three letters one sound) in the words they read.

Your child does not learn any new sounds at this level. Instead they build up their bank of words they can read on sight.



They also practise blending consonants together so that they can read all the sounds in the words. Here are some words to read together to help your child practise this skill:

frog string tent brick left rust bright spoon green

**Reading at Blue and Green Levels**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poeAmXCOafU&list=PLB5TN0ac12P97k0x0Xvn8K46bw-vTTeUD&index=2**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poeAmXCOafU&list=PLB5TN0ac12P97k0x0Xvn8K46bw-vTTeUD&index=2)

* Reread books three times – the first time for enjoyment and an overview of the story, the second time focus on phonics, the third time build up fluency and pace.
* Help them learn the phonics tricky words for phase 5 so they have a bank of words they don’t have to sound out.
* Ask your child questions about what they have read. Talk about the story to develop their understanding.
* Encourage your child to reread sentences they have found difficult so that they keep the meaning.
* Try not to interrupt – can your child spot when they make mistakes?
* Help your child to spot alternative spellings of sounds that they read.

Both of these reading levels cover phase 5 phonics. These are the levels in which your child learns alternative spellings for sounds.



Tricky words to learn:

Oh Mrs people Mr called looked could asked their

**Reading at Orange, Turquoise and Purple Level**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB-meWtYNs0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB-meWtYNs0)

* Continue to listen to your child read aloud often. This will help them to develop their skills of reading punctuation and reading with expression.
* Talk about books they have read. Can they retell parts of the story?
* Try not to interrupt – can your child spot when they make mistakes?
* Continue to practise phonics. Your child should be getting more confident reading whole words but new words will still need sounding out and phonics is very useful even as adults.
* Talk about new vocabulary and check your child knows what words mean.
* Ask your child lots of questions about the story to check they understand what they are reading.
* Read poetry together – this helps your child to develop their rhythm and pace reading aloud.
* Continue to support your child’s reading by reading harder or longer stories aloud to them. This also models expert reading.

If your child is reading at orange, turquoise, purple or gold then they are learning phase 6 phonics. At this stage your child learns to

* Read with increasing fluency
* Read and spell words in the past tense
* Investigate and learn how to add suffixes
* Spell long words
* Find and learn the difficult bits in words
* Develop memory strategies for spelling

Talk to your child about words they find tricky to read, help them to find out about the meanings of words and notice how words can sounds the same but have different meanings or spellings.

**Reading at Gold level and beyond**

**Watch this video:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4Y\_67GMkP4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4Y_67GMkP4)

* Continue to listen to your child read aloud. This will help them to develop their skills of reading punctuation and reading with expression.
* Talk about books they have read.
* Try not to interrupt – can your child spot when they make mistakes?
* Continue to practise phonics. Your child should be confident reading now but new words will still need sounding out and phonics is very useful even as adults.
* Talk about new vocabulary and check your child knows what words mean.
* Ask your child lots of questions about their reading to develop their understanding.
* Read poetry together – this helps your child to develop their rhythm and pace reading aloud.
* Continue to support your child’s reading by reading harder or longer stories aloud to them. This also models expert reading.

Talk to your child about their reading. Help them to form opinions of their reading. Which authors do they like? Do they prefer fiction or non-fiction?