

What is the purpose of this handout?

- To inform parents of how reading is taught
- To supply parents with clear information on the RWI programme
- To give parents tips on how to help their child to read by age 6
- To provide guidance on what resources can be used to help your child at home

What is Read Write Inc?

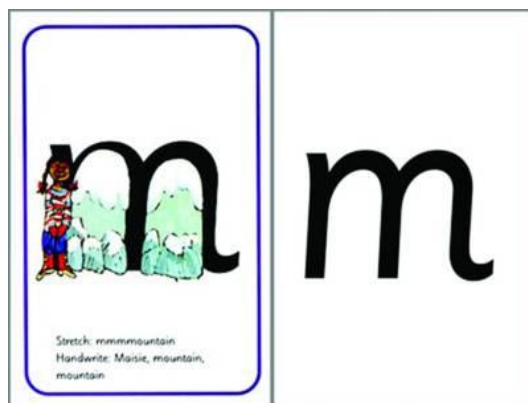
Read Write Inc (RWI) is a phonics based programme which helps children to read by age 6 whilst also developing a wide range of vocabulary and encouraging a love of stories and reading. It was developed by Ruth Miskin and more information on this can be found at www.ruthmiskinliteracy.com.

How is RWI used and taught.

RWI is used in Reception; children are first taught the pure 'set 1 sounds' so that they will be able to blend the sounds in words more easily. In School we call this 'Fred Talk'. We do not use letter names at this stage; we simply focus on the sounds that are used to sound out words. To view correct pronunciation of the sounds, click on the link below:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J2Ddf_0Om8

At this stage, the children are not only taught the 'sound' the letter makes, but also how to form the letter, using a rhyme and picture prompt.



When using these sounds to sound out words in 'Fred Talk' we do so like this:

m-a-t (mat) c-a-t (cat) f-r-o-g (frog)

Set 1 sounds:

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

Once your child knows all of their set 1 sounds and is able to read words using 'Fred Talk' they will then move into a group where they will begin reading storybooks and completing writing activities to challenge them further. Your child will also begin to learn 'Set 2 sounds'.

Set 2 sounds:

ay	ee	igh	ow

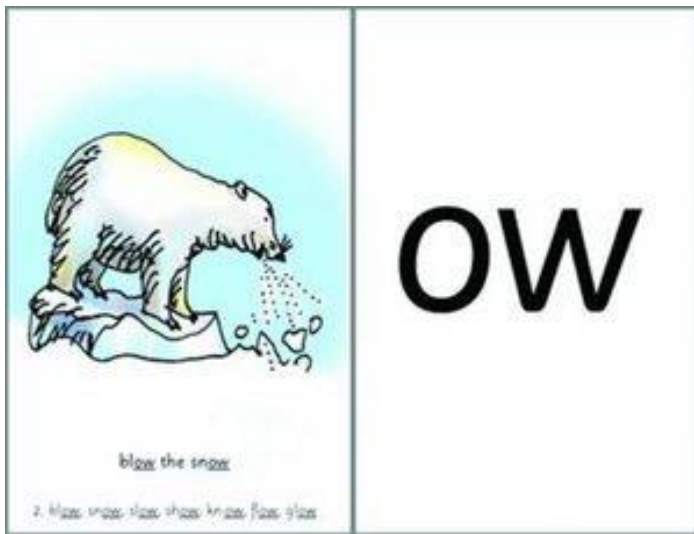
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy

Each set 2 sound has a rhyme to accompany it when the sound is taught. For example the word 'play' cannot be sounded out as 'p-l-a-y'. The word contains the 'ay' sound so will be sounded out as 'p-l-ay'. Other examples for this sound include:

may = m -ay

tray = t-r-ay

Sunday = S-u-n-d-ay



An example of a set 2 sound card for 'ow' as in 'blow the snow'

Set 3 sounds:

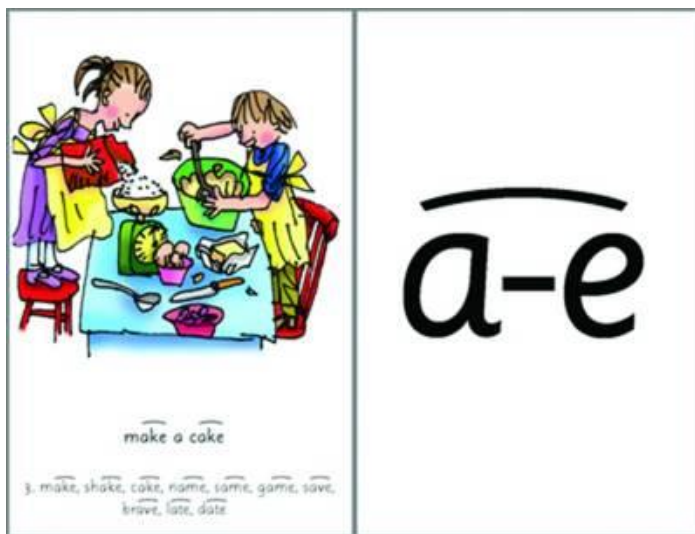
Your child will then move on to set 3 sounds and continue to be challenged with story books and writing activities to stimulate their minds further. The set 3 sounds are highlighted in pink and as you can see for one spoken sound (phoneme) such as 'ay' - there can be a number of ways to write that sound (grapheme). For example:

play = p-l-**ay**
 snail = s-n-**ai**-l
 cake = c-**a** k e

The sound you hear in these words sounds the same, but is written using a different letter pattern.

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				a_e ai	y ea e	i_e ie i	o_e oa o

oo	oa	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
u_e ue ew			oor ore aw au	are	ur er	ow	oi			



An example of a set 3 sound card for 'a-e' as in 'make a cake'

What are Red Words?

These are words that are unable to be sounded out and so are irregular. Children simply have to learn to recognise, read and spell these words as they cannot be sounded out using any sort of phonics strategy.

Examples of red words:

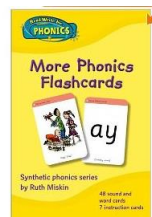
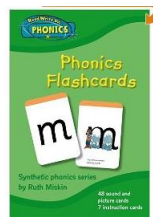
was	what	to	I	my
the	said	one	you	who
love	all	some	your	water
she	he	we	me	be

How can I help my child at home?

- Establish a routine in the day to read for 10-20 minutes
- Reward children with small treats e.g. stickers, affection
- Encourage your child to 'sound out' any unfamiliar words
- Recognise 'red words' together
- Question your child using the 'Questions for Reading'
- Read and share stories with your child regularly

What resources are available to help me support my child at home?

- Reading books will be given to each child to take home and read with an adult on a minimal weekly basis.
- Set 1, 2 and 3 speed sound cards are available to buy on line.
- See the RWI website for a list of full resources.
- Speak to the reception staff team or the RWI manager.



Questions for Reading

Style	What type of book is this? (Fiction / non fiction) Have we read a book like this before? What other story is it like? Look at the cover. What do you think this book is going to be about? What do you think will happen? What is the title of the book? What can you see on the cover?
Setting	Where does this story take place? Where is this story set? Can you describe the setting of the story?
Character	Who are the characters in this story? Who is the most important character in this story? Were there any characters that you didn't like? Why does that character behave like that?
Plot	What do you think is going to happen next? What is the most important thing that happened in the story? Was there a problem in the story and if so, how was it resolved? What was your favourite part of the story? Why? Did you dislike anything about the story?
Theme	Did you learn anything from the story? Has anything similar ever happened to you? Do you think the story ended happily? Why?
Punctuation	Can you spot where capital letters have been used? Why have they been used? Where are the full stops? Why have they been used? How should you read a sentence with an exclamation mark (!) at the end?