



Technical Vocabulary Guide to Support the Teaching of Phonics and Early Reading

Terminology Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP)	An approach to the teaching of reading in which the phonemes (sounds) associated with the particular graphemes (letters) are pronounced in isolation then blended (synthesized) together. GPCs are taught in a clearly defined sequence.
Phoneme	The smallest unit of sound in a word often referred to as a 'sound'.
Grapheme	A letter (or sequence of letters) that represent(s) a phoneme.
Grapheme-phoneme correspondence (GPC)	The letter that matches the sound.
Tricky/ common exception words (CEW)	A word that contains GPC's that do not follow the usual pattern or have not yet been taught within the programme.
Diagraph	A combination of two letters representing one sound for example ph , ey.
Trigraph	A combination of three letters representing one sound for example igh.
Alternative graphemes	Additional common graphemes used to represent familiar phonemes.
Alternative pronunciations	Alternative ways of pronouncing graphemes that have already been taught.
Adjacent consonants	Two or more consonants next to one another at the beginning or end of a word or syllable.
Skills Phonics	Is the ability to identify that there is a relationship between the individual sounds (phonemes) of the spoken language and the letters (graphemes) of the written language.
Recognition	Saying the phoneme when shown the grapheme.
Recall	Finding or writing the grapheme that represents a particular grapheme.
Blending (decoding)	Identifying the graphemes from left to right of the printed word; say the sounds and "squash them together " to hear the whole word.



Segmenting (encoding)	Identifying the sounds from beginning to end of the spoken word; write down a grapheme for each sound to spell the word.
Sound (as a verb)	Saying the phonemes that each grapheme represents in order to blend them.
Over- sound	Sounding words prior to blending out of habit rather than as required for accurate decoding.
Decoding	Being able to use visual, syntactic or semantic cues to make meaning from words and sentences.
Syntax	The set of rules and principles that govern the structure of sentences in a given language, usually including word order.
Whole-word segmenting	The process of segmenting the whole word before finding or writing the letters rather than taking one letter at a time.