

# Phonics Terminology

Your child may use some of these terms to talk about their learning in phonics. Here is what they mean.

## Glossary

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in the English language. Phonemes (sounds) can be put together to make words.

Grapheme - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. s, 2 letters e.g. sh, th, ee, ai 3 letters e.g. tch, ear, air or 4 letters e.g. ough, augh.

GPC - This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme and vice versa.

Digraph - A grapheme containing two letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Trigraph - A grapheme containing three letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Quadgraph - A grapheme containing four letters that makes just one sound (phoneme).

Oral Blending - This involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.

Blending - This involves looking at a written word, looking at each grapheme and using their knowledge of which phoneme each grapheme represents and then blending these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.

Oral Segmenting - This is the act of hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.

Segmenting - This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using this knowledge to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.