

# Willow & Maple

Your child has started to bring home a sheet to share with you their phonic learning journey. We call these 'Time to Read' sheets.



## Time to Read

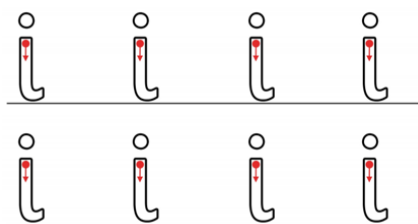
A 'time to read' sheet shares the sound (phoneme) that has been taught during our phonics focus time and if shared and completed at home, consolidates, and supports your child's phonic knowledge and understanding. As we introduce more sounds the 'Time to Read' sheet will contain different features as explained below.



We use pictures as a way to share objects which begin with the days sound and ask the question- 'What can you see beginning with .....?) We encourage each child to say 'I can see a ..... beginning with the .....sound'.

**Ideas for home-** You can extend this activity by going on a sound hunt around your home and garden. Can they collect objects which start with the sound? Can they play 'Odd one out' selecting the days sound from a group of

objects.



Time is spent to encourage letter formation. Ask your child to start at the red dot and follow the direction of the red arrow. Trying to stay within the black lines.

**Ideas for home-** Using different colours or types of pens- practise the day's letter without using the sheet. Put flour on a flat surface (tray or plate) and have ago at creating the letters using a finger- tip.

Press the 'sound button' under each letter to say the sound (phoneme) blend the sounds together to make the word.



Your child is introduced to words, containing the new sound learnt that day plus sounds previously taught. Each letter has a button underneath. The children are shown how to say each sound as the button is touched (This is called **segmenting**). Each separate sound is then put together to say the word (we call this **blending**). These stages can take time, so please don't worry if your child is not yet independently segmenting and blending. Please continue to model by segmenting and blending each word and encouraging your child to take part.

**Ideas for home-** Playing I spy is a great way of supporting segmenting and developing your child's ability to blend. For example. I spy something that sounds like s..ock t....able d.....og c.....at .

## Read Tricky Words

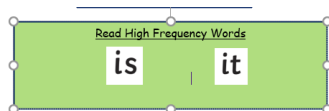
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We introduce words that we call '**Tricky words**', these are words which cannot be sounded out easily. We share what is tricky and ask each child to say the word by sight each time they see it displayed in a book or in the environment.

**Ideas for home-** write each tricky word on a piece of paper/sticky note and place around your home or garden. How

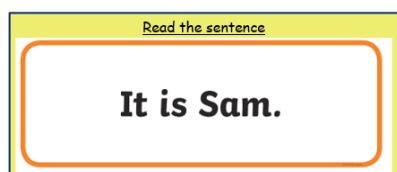
many can they find? Look through a book and see how many of the week's tricky words you can spot together.

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These are **high Frequency words (HFW)**. These are words that are commonly used in books, we encourage each child to memorise them as a whole word by sight, so they can recognise these words in print without the need to segment and blend. This will develop and support your child in becoming a fluent reader.

**Ideas for home-** Copy the words on to paper/card and play a game of pairs. When a card is turned, encourage your child to just say the word they can see. If it's a match, they get to keep the cards and continue until all cards are won. Another successful method is by placing each word on a stair and as your child goes to bed ask them to say each word that appears on each step. Rearrange the words to add challenge (Tricky words can also be used this way).



We end our focus phonic session by applying our skills to read short sentences. These sentences contain words consisting of sounds already taught/tricky words/ High Frequency words. We take time to look at the capital letter at the start of each sentence, finger spaces between each word and finally the full stop at the end telling us the sentence is finished.

**Ideas for home-** Copy the sentence and then chop it up into individual words. Can your child put the sentence back together, remembering the word with the full stop comes at the end etc.

Sharing books at home (Fiction/non-fiction) is a great way to share sentences and story- telling.

As we progress through our phonic stages, the time to read sheet may show words with a line underneath. This line represents letters that when together only make one sound when sounded out.

**For example;**

sock  
● ● —

We call this a **digraph**- 2 letters, one sound.

night  
—

We call this a **trigraph**- 3 letters, one sound

The time to read sheets are for reference and supporting your child's phonic development at home. They **do not need** to be returned to school, but can be shared on evidence me.

If you have any more questions or would like to learn more about how to support your child at home with phonics then please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Early Years team or leave a message on Evidence Me

Thank you for your support.