

## What is Fred Talk?

As part of the RWI session, children are introduced to 'Fred the Frog'. Fred, can only talk in sounds, he cannot talk in whole words. Therefore, Fred would read 'cat' as 'c a t'.

When we ask children to Fred Talk, we are asking them to read the sound they can see in a word.

After we have asked children to Fred Talk a word, we would then ask them to read the word; "Fred Talk read the word".



## What is Fred in your head?

Once children have mastered Fred Talk, we would then ask them to "Fred in your head read the word". We are asking children to look at a word, Fred Talk the sound in their head, and then read the word. Over time, children become speedy at this!

## What are Fred Fingers?

We use Fred Fingers during the spelling part of a RWI session. The Group Lead will say a word to the group, e.g. 'play'. The children then need to consider what sounds they would need to write, in order to spell this word. The children then show this on their fingers. For example, 'play' requires three sounds; p, l, ay.

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Children then say each sound in turn, whilst pinching each finger, doing this in the direction they write. The action of Fred Fingers helps children to spell a word and commit it to memory.

### Green Words

Green Words are words your child can read phonetically using the sounds they have been taught. For example, cat, fuss, quick, chat.

We can Fred Talk, Fred in your head or Fred Finger Green words.

### Red Words

Not all words within English can be read and spelt phonetically. RWI teaches these words as Red Words. For example, all, are, any.

### What are alien words/nonsense words and why are they important?

Alien words/nonsense words, are just that; nonsense. They are words, which have no meaning but require children to use phonics to segment and blend in order to read them.

Examples of alien words are;

ip, vab, pid etc.

The alien words children are asked to read serves as reading assessment for the group lead, who can determine if children are able to use their phonetic knowledge to read, rather than reading by sight.

### Special Friends

There are 44 sounds in the English Language, and over 150 ways of writing these sounds.

This means that some sounds have more than one spelling.

For example

igh; might

ie; pie

y; fly

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i-e; nice

Special friends are two or more letter than make one sound, such as 'igh', 'ie', or 'i-e'.

When we ask children to Fred Talk a word, we will ask them for any special friends that they notice first. In this way, we are encouraging children to use their phonetic knowledge to read a word, rather than to read by sight.

Please find below examples of some of the Special Friends that we teach at different points in the RWI program.

### Complex Speed Sounds

#### Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

#### Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				<u>a-e</u>	y	<u>i-e</u>	<u>o-e</u>
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						e	i	o
							y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
<u>u-e</u>			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							