

Glossary

Fred Talk – sounding out the word before reading (blending)

sound-blending – putting sounds together to make a word,
e.g. c–a–t *cat*

special friends – sounds written with more than one letter,
e.g. **sh, ng, qu, ch**

Speed Sounds – the individual sounds that make up words



Read stories to your child with feeling! The more you love the story, the more your child will love reading.

Booklet 1 tells you how to help your child:

- read Set 1 Speed Sounds
- blend sounds into words
- read the Blending Books
- read Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

www.ruthmiskin.com/parents has many videos to help you help your child.

For more information on *Read Write Inc.*, please talk to the *Read Write Inc.* manager in your child's school or visit www.readwriteinc.com.

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Read Write Inc.

Phonics

Reading at home Booklet 1

Your child is learning to read with *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, a very popular and successful literacy programme. This **first booklet** shows you how you can get your child off to a quick start.

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way. He or she will learn to:

1. Read **letters** by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into **words**
3. Read the words in a **story**.



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How will my child learn to read?

First, your child will learn to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:
m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v
y w z x and sounds written with two letters
(your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch**
qu ng nk ck
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*
- Blending Books and Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Second, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or**
air ir ou oy
- Words containing these sounds
- Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Third, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw**
are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

Your child will be taught to say the sound for the letter and not the letter name, so 'm' as in 'mat', not 'em'; 's' as in 'sun' not 'es'.

How to listen to your child read



- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Do it all with patience and love!

We have a storytime every day at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night. We have wonderful books in school for you to borrow.

3. Help your child read the Sound Blending Books

Ask your child to read each word in sounds (Fred Talk) and then say the word. Then, he or she can turn over and check if they're right.



4. Help your child read the Storybooks

Black and White Storybooks

As soon as your child starts to read the *Read Write Inc. Phonics* Storybooks, he or she will bring home a black and white Storybook. This is a copy of the colour version he or she will have read at school.

Your child will have read this story three times with their reading teacher, so should be able to read the story confidently.

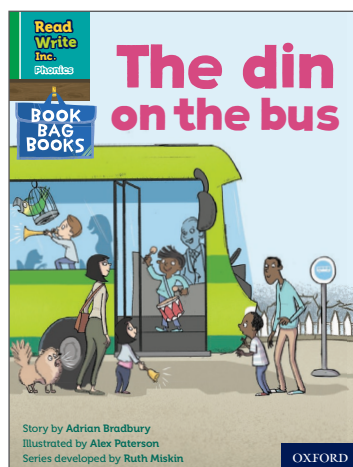
A brief explanation of how to follow the activities is included in the books.



Book Bag Books

Your child may also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has just read. Your child will need more support in reading this book.

Again, explanations of how to use the activities are included in the books.



1. Help your child read the Set 1 Speed Sounds

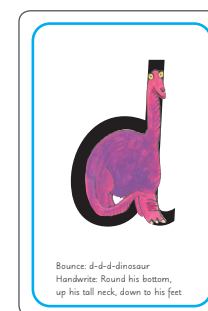
Before you get going, visit www.ruthmiskin.com/parents to practise saying the sounds clearly. The more clearly *you* say the sounds, the more quickly your child will learn them.

Important: We say 'mmm' not 'muh' and 'lllll' not 'luh' when teaching the sounds. This really helps children when they learn to blend sounds together to read words.

Your child will bring home the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards or a *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.

You'll see that each sound is drawn in the shape of a picture. For example:

- 's' is in the shape of a snake
- 'd' is in the shape of a dinosaur
- 'a' is in the shape of an apple
- 'm' is in the shape of two mountains.



Using the Set 1 Speed Sounds cards

The name of each picture is written on the back of the cards.

1. Ask your child to say the name of the picture on the back of each card, e.g. a-a-a-apple, ssssnake, getting quicker each time.
2. Help your child to say the sound hidden behind each picture, e.g. 's' is behind the snake. Repeat until your child can do this quickly.
3. Help your child to say the sounds on the letter side, getting quicker each time. If he or she forgets, turn back to the picture side. When your child can say the sounds without turning over to check, increase the speed!



Learning the Speed Sounds in the classroom.

Using the My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book

Ask your child to flick through the book and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the 'picture-sound' is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.

Practise reading and writing sounds in *My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book*.



2. Help your child to read words

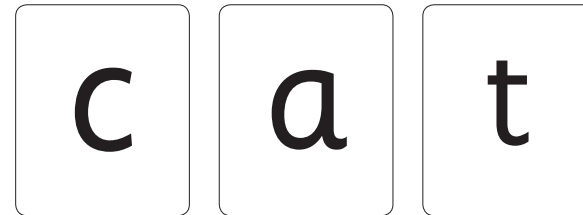
Once your child can read Set 1 Speed Sounds confidently, he or she can learn to read words. First, your child is introduced to a toy frog called Fred. Fred can *only* say the sounds in a word and needs your child to help him read the word. So, when you hear your child say 'Fred Talk', you'll know this means sounding out the word.

You can help your child to read words by following these steps:



Fred says the sounds and children work out the word.

1. Make up a word with three cards that your child can read quickly, e.g. c-a-t.



Point to and say the sounds, and then say the word. Ask your child to copy you.

Muddle up the cards. Ask your child to make the word again, and then point to and say the sounds.

Repeat with more 3-sound words, including some containing sounds made up of more than one letter, e.g. ch-a-t, sh-i-p, th-i-s.

2. Put out three cards. This time, ask your *child* to say the sounds.

Help him or her to blend the sounds into the words, until your child can do it without your help.

3. Repeat with some 4-sound words, e.g. b-l-i-p, f-r-o-g, g-r-i-n, s-t-o-p, j-u-m-p, h-a-n-d, b-l-a-ck.

Glossary

Fred Talk – sounding out the word before reading (blending)

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e.g. c-a-t *cat*

special friends – sounds written with more than one letter,
e.g. **sh, ng, qu, ch**

Speed Sounds – the individual sounds that make up words



Read stories to your child with feeling! The more you love the story, the more your child will love reading.

Booklet 2 shows you how to help your child practise reading:

- Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds
- Pink, Orange, Yellow, Blue and Grey Storybooks.

www.ruthmiskin.com/parents has many videos to help you help your child.

For more information on *Read Write Inc.*, please talk to the *Read Write Inc.* manager in your child's school or visit www.readwriteinc.com.

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Read Write Inc.

Phonics

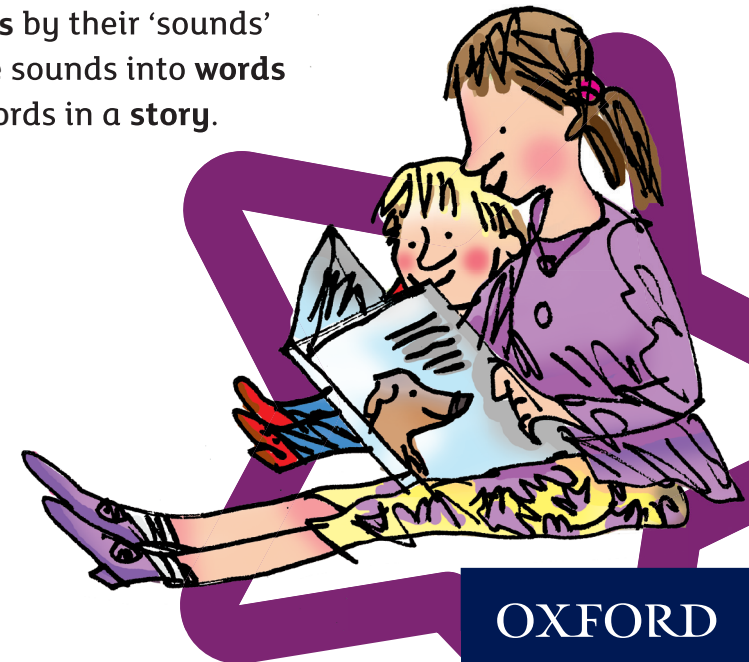
Reading at home Booklet 2

Your child is learning to read with *Read Write Inc. Phonics*, a very popular and successful literacy programme. This **second booklet** shows you how you can get your child off to a quick start.

Your child will learn to read in a very simple way.

He or she will learn to:

1. Read **letters** by their 'sounds'
2. Blend these sounds into **words**
3. Read the words in a **story**.



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How will my child learn to read?

Your child will already have learnt to read:

- Set 1 Speed Sounds: these are sounds written with one letter:
m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v
y w z x and sounds written with two letters
(your child will call these 'special friends'): **sh th ch**
qu ng nk ck
- Words containing these sounds, by sound-blending,
e.g. m-a-t *mat*, c-a-t *cat*, g-o-t *got*, f-i-sh *fish*,
s-p-o-t *spot*, b-e-s-t *best*, s-p-l-a-sh *splash*
- Blending Books and Red, Green and Purple Storybooks.

Now, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 2 Speed Sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or**
air ir ou oy
- Words containing these sounds
- Pink, Orange and Yellow Storybooks.

Next, he or she will learn to read:

- Set 3 Speed Sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw**
are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure
- Words containing these sounds
- Blue and Grey Storybooks.

How to listen to your child read



- Do not read the book aloud before your child reads it to you.
- Ask your child to read the sounds and words before he or she reads the story.
- When your child reads the story, ask him or her to sound out the words that he or she can't read automatically. Don't allow your child to struggle too much. Praise your child when he or she succeeds.
- Read back each sentence or page to keep the plot moving. (Your child's energy is going into reading the words not the story.)
- Do not ask your child to guess the word by using the pictures.
- Do it all with patience and love!

We have a storytime every day at school so children develop a love of stories. We hope that you will do the same by reading a bedtime story to your child every night. We have wonderful books in school for you to borrow.

2. Help your child read the Storybooks

Black and White Storybooks

Your child will continue to bring home a *Read Write Inc. Phonics* black and white Storybook. This is a copy of the colour version he or she will have read at school.

Your child will have read this story three times with their reading teacher, so should be able to read the story confidently.

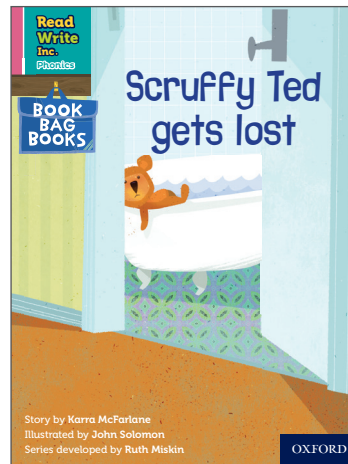
A brief explanation of how to follow the activities is included in the books.



Book Bag Books

Your child may also bring home a Book Bag Book. This book builds upon the ideas and many of the words in the Storybook he or she has just read. Your child will need more support in reading this book.

Again, explanations of how to use the activities are included in the books.

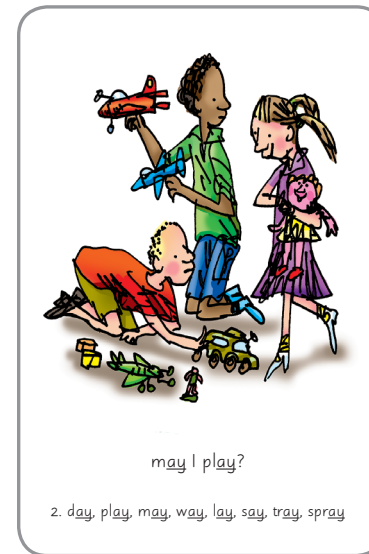


1. Help your child read the Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds

Your child will bring home the Set 2 or Set 3 Speed Sounds cards or a *My Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds Book*.

Each sound has a picture and phrase to help your child remember the sound. For example:

- the sound 'ay' has the phrase 'May I play?' with a picture of children playing together
- the sound 'ee' has the phrase 'What can you see?' with a picture of two boys in a tree.



Using the Set 2 Speed Sounds cards

First, in the pack, find the sounds: **ay ee igh ow oo**

1. Picture side up, ask your child to say the phrase on each card, getting quicker each time.
2. Help your child to say the sounds on the letter side, getting quicker each time. If he or she forgets, turn back to the picture side. When your child can say the sounds without turning over to check, increase the speed!
3. Repeat with the sounds: **oo ar or air ir ou oy** and then mix these sound cards with the ones above. Keep practising until your child can read these 12 sounds quickly and confidently.



Learning the Speed Sounds in the classroom.

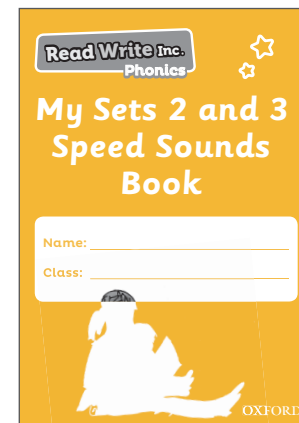
Using the Set 3 Speed Sounds cards

First, in the pack, find the sounds: **ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e**

1. Picture side up, ask your child to say the phrase on each card, getting quicker each time.
2. Help your child to say the sounds on the letter side, getting quicker each time. If he or she forgets, turn back to the picture side. When your child can say the sounds without turning over to check, increase the speed!
3. Repeat with the sounds: **aw are ur er ow ai oa ew** and then mix these sound cards with the ones above. Keep practising until your child can read these 14 sounds quickly and confidently.
4. Repeat with the sounds: **ire ear ure**

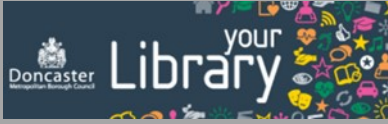
Using the My Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds Book

Ask your child to flick through the book and read the sounds as quickly as he or she can. If your child hesitates reading a sound, the picture is on the back as a reminder. Your child can also practise writing the sound on the same page.



Practise reading and writing sounds in *My Sets 2 and 3 Speed Sounds Book*.

READING RESOURCES FOR KEY STAGE 1



<https://library.doncaster.gov.uk/web/arena/rbdigital>

Free access to lots of comics and magazines online with a Doncaster library card

OxfordOWL Help your child learn

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Read e-books online. Sections for every age from Reception to Y6

Top tips to support your child's reading at home

Part of Support

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zbxb9y9q>

Tips and ideas on how to help your child learn to read

Words for Life



<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/parent-support>

Lots of resources to help your children enjoy reading and writing. Links to other useful websites and resources

BookTrust
Getting children reading

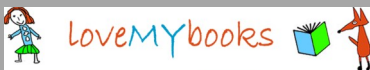
www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/reading-tips/

Tips and suggestions for helping your child learn to read



<https://phonicsfamilycom.wordpress.com/>

Or 'Phonics family' on facebook
Suggestions for fun games and activities to help work on phonics



<http://www.lovelybooks.co.uk/school-closures-home-learning-with-lovelybooks>

Listen to favourite stories, find book reviews and ideas to make reading really fun



Monster themed app to help children who are learning phonics

Here is a list of recommended websites, apps and facebook groups which will give you lots of ideas and suggestions to help you support your child with reading and phonics. Please feel free to share any other sites or apps you have found useful

PARENT FAQs FOR READ WRITE INC. PHONICS

[Where else can I find information?](#)

[Glossary](#)

[How can I support my child's reading and writing?](#)

[What will my child bring home to read?](#)

[How can I support my child to learn Set 1 sounds and to blend?](#)

[How can I support my child to learn Set 2 or 3 sounds?](#)

[How do I listen to my child read?](#)

[What do I do with the picture books?](#)

[How can I help my child to practise their handwriting?](#)

[How can I help my child to spell words?](#)

[How else can I develop my child's language?](#)

[What resources can I buy to support my child's reading and writing at home?](#)

[Where else can I find information?](#)

Watch video tutorials on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to help you to understand more about *Read Write Inc.* Phonics and how to help your child read and write at home.

Other useful websites:

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/ruthmiskintrainingedu?mc_cid=63bfb74b56&mc_eid=4ec2ad9cea

[Glossary](#)

'Special Friends'

Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. ck, ay, igh, oa.

Fred Talk

Fred the Frog helps children read and spell. He can say the sounds in words, but he can't say the whole word, so children have to help him.

To help children read, Fred (the teacher) says the sounds and then children say the word.

For example, Fred says c-a-t, children say cat, Fred says l-igh-t, children say light.

Teachers are encouraged to use Fred Talk through the day, so children learn to blend sounds.

For example:

Play Simon Says: Put your hands on your h-ea-d/ f-oo-t/ kn-ee.

Put on your c-oa-t/ h-a-t/ s-c-ar-f.

Set the table with a b-ow-l/ f-or-k/ s-p-oo-n.

‘Fred in your head’

Once children can sound out a word, we teach them to say the sounds silently in their heads.

We show them how to do this by:

1. whispering the sounds and then saying the whole word;
2. mouthing the sounds silently and then saying the whole word;
3. saying the whole word straight away.

Perfect pencil grip

Children sit at a table to write.

They hold up a pencil in a tripod pencil grip with the non-writing hand flat holding their paper.

How can I support my child’s reading and writing?

Here are the top five things you can do.

See the other FAQs for further detail.

1. Ask your child to read the Speed Sound cards speedily
2. Use Fred Talk to help your child read and spell words
3. Listen to your child read their *Read Write Inc. Storybook* every day
4. Practise reading Green and Red Words in the Storybook speedily
5. Read stories to your child every day.

What will my child bring home to read?

- ‘Last and past’ Storybooks: contain sounds and words the children know. This is the Storybook they have just read at school and maybe some they have read before, for extra practice. Please don’t worry that books are too easy. Children enjoy re-reading stories they know well. Their speed and understanding improves on every read.
- Book Bag Books: matched to the Storybooks children read in school and used for extra practice. They include many of the same reading activities that we use in class and include parent guidance.
- More Storybooks and Non-fiction books: matched to the sounds and words your child knows well.
- Picture books to share with you: read these stories to children or encourage them to retell the story by looking at the pictures. They are not expected to read the story themselves.
- Speed Sounds cards: for children to practise reading speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.
- Red Word book pages: challenge your child to read the Red Words speedily across the rows and down the columns. Set a timer – can they beat yesterday’s time?

How can I support my child to learn Set 1 sounds and to blend?

- Use pure sounds, not letter names. Watch the ‘*how to say the sounds*’ parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>
- Watch the ‘*Reading the stretchy sounds with your child*’, ‘*Reading the bouncy sounds with your child*’ and ‘*Reading the digraphs with your child*’ parent films on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> to see how to teach Set 1 sounds
- Practise reading known Set 1 Speed Sounds cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

We teach children to read and spell using Fred. He is a toy frog who can say the sounds in words, but not the whole word. Children have to help him.

To help children learn to blend, we say the sounds as Fred and then children repeat the sounds and say the whole word.

Here are two ways you can use Fred Talk at home:

1. Play Fred Games together – see Fred Games document on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>
 2. Speak like Fred throughout the day e.g. time for l-u-n-ch! Let's p-l-ay!
- Watch the 'Sound-blending' parent film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

How can I support my child to learn Set 2 or 3 sounds?

- Watch the 'Set 2/3 tutoring' film on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>
- Help your child practise reading known Speed Sounds cards speedily. If needed, show your child the picture side of the card to help them remember the sound.

How do I listen to my child read?

Your child has a Storybook matched to the sounds and words they know – a decodable book – so they should be able to read all the words.

Please avoid saying, "This book is too easy for you!" but instead say "I love how well you can read this book!"

'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word

Remind your child to read words using 'Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word' (see glossary).

For example '*ship*': spot the 'sh', then Fred Talk and blend to read the word e.g. sh, sh-i-p, ship.

Red Words

Red Words are also known as common exception or tricky words. They occur in stories regularly (said, what, where) but have unusual letter combinations ('ai' in the word 'said' makes the sound 'e').

Remind your child not to use Fred Talk to read Red Words but instead to 'stop and think'. Tell them the word if you need to.

Read the same book again and again

Children love reading the same book again and again. Their reading becomes speedier and they understand what they are reading.

- Encourage your child to read words using 'Fred in your head' (see glossary)
- Show your child how to read the story in a storyteller voice
- Share your enjoyment of the story when they read it again and again.

What do I do with the picture books?

One of the most important things you can do as a parent at home is read *to* your child. Loving stories is important because children who love stories want to read stories for themselves. Children who read a lot become better readers.

Here are some top tips for storytime:

1. Make it a treat – introduce each new book with excitement
2. Make it a special quiet time – cuddle up!
3. Show curiosity in what you're going to read
4. Read the story once without stopping so they can enjoy the whole story. If you think your child might not understand something say something like 'Oh I think what's happening here is that...'
5. Chat about the story e.g. I wonder why he did that? Oh no, I hope she's not going to...
6. Avoid asking questions to check what they remember
7. Link to other stories and experiences you have shared e.g. this reminds me of...
8. Read favourite stories over and over again – encourage your child to join with the bits they know. Avoid saying 'not that story again!'
9. Use different voices – be enthusiastic!
10. Love the book – read with enjoyment

How can I help my child to practise their handwriting?

Remind your child:

- To hold their pencil in 'perfect pencil grip' (see glossary)
- Say the handwriting phrase to help them form the letter correctly – see Handwriting Phrases on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

Challenge your child to see how many sounds they can write in a minute.

Say the sound and children write e.g. 'write m', 'write s', 'write w'.

How can I help my child to spell words?

- Encourage your child to use Fred Fingers to spell words
- Ask your child to say the sounds in the word as they press the sounds onto their fingers
- Ask your child to then write the letters – if they get stuck, say the sounds again
- Praise your child for spelling using the sounds they know, even if their handwriting is not perfect.

How else can I develop my child's language?

Children will have a large vocabulary if they are part of a 'talk-a-lot' family:

- Use every opportunity to talk with your child throughout the day – meal times, playing together, bath time
- Use new and ambitious vocabulary e.g. miserable instead of sad, stroll instead of walk
- Speak to your child in complete sentences
- Make up stories together - there's no need to write it down.

What resources can I buy to support my child's reading and writing at home?

You can purchase the below from Amazon to support your child with blending at home:

- Set 1/2/3 flashcards
- My Reading and Writing Kit age 3-5 – Set 1 Speed Sounds and blending
- My Reading and Writing Kit ages 5-7 – Red Ditty books
- My Reading and Writing Kit ages 5-7- Set 2 Speed Sounds, Green and Purple Storybooks