

# UptoSix Phonics App

## Lessons guide for parents and teachers

The rate at which a child will learn the concepts depends entirely on the child's grasping capacity.

Here is a step-by-step plan that teachers and parents can use to make the most of the app. Phonics is a method of teaching children to read and spell. All words are made up of sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language. These sounds are called phonemes. Each phoneme can be represented by one or more letters. The letters or the group of letters representing a phoneme is called grapheme. Children learn to blend the sounds to read and identify the individual sounds in a word to spell.

### Sound Introduction:

As in Synthetic Phonics, children are taught to read by blending the sounds of a word and spell by breaking a word into individual sounds; **it is crucial at an early age; only the letter sounds are taught, not the letter names.** Otherwise, children get confused easily. Sounds are not taught in alphabetical order. This order in which sounds are taught enables children to learn to read fast and they don't get confused with similar-looking letters.

Sounds are divided into four sets.

In each set, there are six sounds.

Each sound is introduced with a story.

There are games to

- reinforce the sounds that have been taught
- check for understanding
- establish letter-sound correspondence
- develop listening skills.

Children should learn to say the sounds accurately. That's /nnn/, not /n-uh/; /p/ not /p-uh/ or /m/, not /m-uh/.

Children can carefully listen to the sounds and try to imitate them while playing with the app. Mouth gestures and mouth movements can be checked by pressing the info button.



## Letter Formation

Learning how to write the letters associated with the sounds with the correct formation is essential. An animation demonstrates how to write a letter correctly. Children can try writing the red letter with a finger or a stylus. It is like writing on a slate with chalk or paper with a pencil. The computer does not auto-correct the writing. The child can restart writing by pressing the refresh button. Kindly check UptoSix Letter Formation app on the Google Play Store and App Store.

Children need to learn how to hold a pencil with a proper grip before they start writing. Activities like cutting, drawing, colouring, sticking and tearing help strengthen fine motor skills.

### Set 1 sounds

Lesson 1	Sound introduction - /s/
Lesson 2	Sound introduction - /a/
Lesson 3	Sound introduction - /t/
Lesson 4	Sound introduction - /p/
Lesson 5	Sound introduction - /i/
Lesson 6	Sound introduction - /n/

### Set 1 games

Each Set contains four games that prepare children for blending and segmenting skills. The difficulty levels of blending and segmenting games increase as children learn new sounds.

The bubble pop game helps in the development of letter-sound correspondence. Identifying the beginning and ending sounds of word games helps children develop the listening skills necessary for spelling.

Capital and small letter matching games help children understand that capital and small letters make the same sound.

It is preferable to avoid first teaching letter names like 'ess' or 'ay' at the early stage. This can lead to confusion in blending and segmenting. Letter names can be introduced once children have mastered the letter sounds and blending and segmenting skills.



All four games can be played simultaneously. Children should thoroughly play these games before moving on to blending and segmenting.

Lesson 7	Bubble pop game
Lesson 8	Beginning sound game
Lesson 9	Ending sound game
Lesson 10	Letter matching game

## Blending and Segmenting



Blending is the skill used for reading. Children learn to join the sounds of a word to read. To blend successfully, one should be fluent with the letter sounds.

The skill of blending is not something easy. Children need lots of practice to acquire the skill. It is like learning to swim or riding a bicycle. Once they get it, it becomes easy and spontaneous. Then decoding unfamiliar words becomes easy.

If a child struggles with blending, they simply need more sound practice.

Segmenting is just the opposite of blending. This skill is used for spelling. Children learn to segment a word into the individual sounds and write the letters associated with those sounds to spell a word. Letter sound association should be established properly before trying Segmenting. Bubble pop games and beginning and ending sound games help to master letter-sound correspondence.

Blending and segmenting skills should be exercised together.

Lesson 11	Blending
Lesson 12	Segmenting



## Set 2 Sounds

Six more sounds will be introduced in Set 2. The method will be the same as in Set 1. Each sound is introduced with a story. There are games to reinforce the sounds as well as games to assess understanding.

Children should learn to say the sounds correctly.

To check the mouth gesture and movement to produce a sound correctly, press the info button in the upper right corner of each page.

Children will have learned twelve sounds by now. With these twelve sounds, many words are available for blending and segmenting.

In Set two, blending and segmenting have 'Beginner' and 'Expert' levels. The words in the 'Beginner' level are simpler, whereas those in the 'Expert' level are challenging.

Toggle between the 'Beginner' and 'Expert' levels by pressing the buttons.

Please keep in mind that children should not be asked to read or write words containing letter sounds that have not been taught.

Reading is less difficult than writing. Most words will be the same for reading and writing; however, words with a /ck/ sound, such as 'sick,' should be avoided for writing at this stage. Because children may not know which /k/ to write when they hear it: the curly /c/, the kicking /k/, or /ck/. These words, however, are easy to read if they have mastered the blending skill.

To spell effectively, children must revisit all of the letter sounds taught regularly.

Lesson 13	Sound /m/
Lesson 14	Sound /d/
Lesson 15	Sound /g/
Lesson 16	Sound /c/k/. The letters C and K have the same sound.
Lesson 17	Sound /r/
Lesson 18	Sound /e/
Lesson 19	Bubble pop game
Lesson 20	Beginning sound game



Lesson 21	Ending sound game
Lesson 22	Letter matching game
Lesson 23	Blending
Lesson 24	Segmenting

### Set 3 Sounds

In Set 3, children will learn six more sounds. The approach will be the same as in Sets 1 and 2.

With 18 sounds, plenty of words are available for blending and segmenting. Blending and segmenting, like Set 2, have two levels. 'Beginners' and 'Experts'

As previously mentioned, reading is easier than writing. Words with double letters are easier to read, such as 'doll,' 'daffodil,' and 'fossil.' It is only necessary to say the sound once when blending a word with a double letter. Like /d-o-l/ rather than /d-o-l-l/; /d-a-f-o-d-i-l/ rather than /d-a-f-f-o-d-i-l/. These words are difficult to spell because children do not understand when to use double letters.

Old sounds should be revised regularly.

Lesson 25	Sound /h/
Lesson 26	Sound /u/
Lesson 27	Sound /b/
Lesson 28	Sound /o/
Lesson 29	Sound /f/
Lesson 30	Sound /l/
Lesson 31	Bubble pop game
Lesson 32	Beginning sound game
Lesson 33	Ending sound game



Lesson 34	Letter matching game
Lesson 35	Blending
Lesson 36	Segmenting

## Set 4 Sounds

The last set of sounds that will be taught in the **Uptosix Phonics Level 1** are

/j/, /v/, /w/, /x/, /y/, /z/

At the end of these lessons, all the 24 single sounds will be introduced. Letter 'q' will be taught as digraph <qu> in **Uptosix Phonics Level 2** or **UptoSix Phonics Plus**.

Lesson 37	Sound /j/
Lesson 38	Sound /v/
Lesson 39	Sound /w/
Lesson 40	Sound /x/
Lesson 41	Sound /y/
Lesson 42	Sound /z/
Lesson 43	Bubble pop game
Lesson 44	Beginning sound game
Lesson 45	Ending sound game
Lesson 46	Letter matching game
Lesson 47	Blending
Lesson 48	Segmenting



## Reading

By now, children will be able to read and write words made up of single sounds. They will now move on to reading phrases from words. A total of 60 phrases may be found in the reading section. If a child needs assistance reading a word, they may simply touch it, and the word will be decoded. The phrase will be read aloud when you tap the speaker icon. One aspect of reading is word decoding. Another important aspect is comprehension. It is critical to develop a child's vocabulary and comprehension skills through conversations and regular story reading.

In a nutshell, words are composed of sounds.

There are 44 sounds in the English language.

To blend sounds in a word in order to read it.

Listening for sounds in words in order to spell them.

Blending and segmenting require letter-sound correspondence.

Letter sounds first, then the letter names.

## UptoSix Phonics Level 2 (UptoSix Phonics Plus)

Learning single letter sounds alone does not make a synthetic phonics lesson complete.

There are 44 sounds in the English language. Many other concepts, including digraphs, tricky words, consonant blends, magic 'e,' alternate spellings, must be learned by children.

**Digraphs** are two letters one sound, such as <ai> in train and <oa> in boat.

**Tricky words** can not be sounded out. Examples: 'the,' 'we,' 'here,' 'because,' and so on.

**Magic 'e', or hop over 'e'**; like in 'cake' or in 'time' or in 'cute' where the digraphs are split by a consonant.

**Alternative spellings** of sounds or different ways of writing the same sound.

Like <ay> in 'acorn', 'rain', 'cake', 'day', 'reindeer', 'they', 'sleigh', 'ballet', 'great'.

Sound <ie> in 'tie', 'kite', 'night' or in 'sky'.

Synthetic phonics lessons will be incomplete unless these concepts are learned. It will be equivalent to giving children half clues to solve a puzzle. All of these concepts will be taught in the Uptosix Phonics Plus app.

