Phonics Level 4 Parent Pack

What is phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read and spell using specific letters or sounds. These letters and sounds combine to create words that can be broken down or blended together in order to read or spell them.

Glossary

Within Twinkl Phonics, children will learn the correct phonics terminology. We recommend that children are exposed to this terminology as much as possible. It may be helpful for you to familiarise yourselves with these terms to use with your child.

Adjacent consonants	two consonants that are next to each other in a word, such as 'st' or 'ft'
Blending	building up of words from individual phonemes for reading
CVC words	stands for consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'cat'
CVCC words	stands for consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. 'hand'
CCVC words	stands for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'stop'
CCVCC words	stands for consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. 'stand'
CCCVC words	stands for consonant-consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant, e.g. 'strap'
CCCVCC words	stands for consonant-consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant-consonant, e.g. strong
Digraph	when a single sound is represented by two written letters
GPC	stands for 'grapheme/phoneme correspondence' - the relationship between sounds and the letter or letters that represent that sound
Grapheme	the symbol (written letter) used to represent a sound
Mnemonic	an illustration that is designed to support children's recognition of GPCs
Phoneme	the shortest unit of sound in a word - usually represented by a single letter
Polysyllabic words	words that have more than one syllable, such as shampoo or children
Segmenting	breaking down words into individual phonemes for writing
Suffix	a string of letters that go at the end of a root word, changing or adding to its meaning. e.g. if the suffix 'ly' is added to 'quick' it becomes 'quickly'
Tricky words (common exception words)	words that are not decodable at the child's current phonic level of understanding. Also called 'sight words' because children are taught to memorise them so they can be recognised by sight
Trigraph	when a single sound is represented by three written letters

What do children learn in Level 4?

In Level 4, children are taught to read and spell words containing **adjacent consonants**. Adjacent consonants are two consonants that are next to each other, such as ‘st’ or ‘ft’.

The Level 4 Twinkl Phonics scheme is divided into four weeks:

- **CVCC words**
- **CCVC words**
- **Adjacent consonants**
- **Polysyllabic words**

Children are initially taught adjacent consonants that appear at the end of words - these are called **CVCC** words, such as ‘hand’ or ‘back’. Next, they will be taught adjacent consonants at the beginning of words, called **CCVC** words, which include ‘stop’ and ‘chip’. Sometimes, adjacent consonants can also appear in the middle of words - this is usually when the word ends with a **suffix**, such as ‘ing’ or ‘er’.

Blending and Segmenting

In Level 4, children will combine the Level 2 and Level 3 GPCs that they have learned with new adjacent consonant to read and spell new words.

Although adjacent consonants are sometimes taught as specific pairs, they are not digraphs. They are two individual sounds that are blended together. They are often at the beginning or end of words, such as 'ha**nd**' or '**st**op'. These are CVCC or CCVC words.

Sometimes, three consonants can appear together, such as 'str' in 'strap'. This would be a CCCVC word. By this stage, there are many different combinations of words that children should be able to read using the GPCs and blends that they are familiar with.

It is also important to note that the consonant or vowel in a word could be a digraph, such as 'trash' or 'broom'.

Tricky Words (Common Exception Words)

Tricky words or common exception words are the words that do not fit the regular spelling rules that have been taught, therefore children can not segment and spell them like regular words.

Children are taught to recognise and spell tricky words by sight (to memorise them) and to point out the tricky part of the word.

How can you help support your child at home?

To support your child at home, you can practise reading and spelling words with Level 4 adjacent consonants by:

- Recognising and identifying phonemes in words by playing 'I Spy' or breaking down words for spelling, such as 'Turn on the l-a-m-p'.
- Blending and reading words containing Level 4 adjacent consonants - practise reading stories together containing CVCC and CCVC words or matching words with pictures.
- Segmenting and spelling words containing adjacent consonants - practise spelling words in fun ways, such as using magnetic letters or writing words in foam or sand.
- Practise reading and spelling Level 4 tricky words - hide the words on flashcards and make your own treasure hunt for children to find and read the tricky words.