



Nintendo®

# PHONICS FUN

with Biff, Chip & Kipper

## Parent Guide

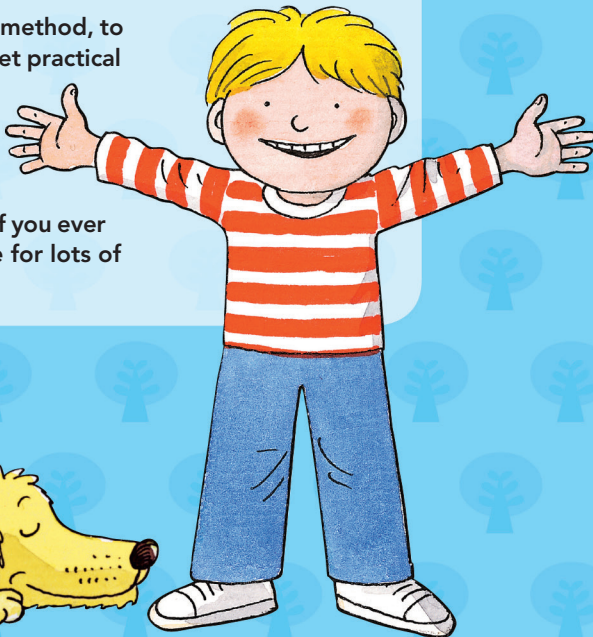


# Welcome!

Welcome to PHONICS FUN WITH BIFF, CHIP AND KIPPER. With this software your child can strengthen their phonic skills through fun, interactive exercises in reading, writing and speaking.

Use this Parent Guide to learn more about the phonics method, to meet the well-loved characters from the stories and to get practical advice on helping your child while they are using the software.

Most importantly, all the exercises are explained inside. This will help you to answer questions your child might ask, like 'What should I do?' and 'How does this work?'. If you ever need any extra support, take a look in this Parent Guide for lots of helpful tips!



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# The phonics method

Learning to read is one of the most important skills that your child will develop over the next few years. PHONICS FUN WITH BIFF, CHIP AND KIPPER makes use of the books in *Oxford Reading Tree's* synthetic phonics programme, *Floppy's Phonics: Sounds and Letters*. Through a step-by-step approach, this teaching programme introduces children to all the letters and sounds they will need in order to read and write English.

Synthetic phonics is a systematic method of teaching reading. First the individual letter sounds are introduced and after that children learn how to 'blend' them together in order to read a word. For example, to read the word 'fish' we say the sounds from left to right and then blend the sounds together to read the whole word:



Some sounds can be made by more than one letter, such as 'sh' or 'th'. There are approximately 44 sounds (or 'phonemes') in the English language which are represented in writing by different letters or letter combinations (the 'graphemes'). The *Floppy's Phonics* programme covers all of these sounds and letters.



## HINT

Start each level by completing *Sounds and Letters*, then move on to *Fiction*, and finish with *Non-Fiction*. Always work from left to right on the bookshelf to slowly increase the challenge!

# Oxford Reading Tree: Floppy's Phonics

*Floppy's Phonics* books are divided into levels according to their difficulty, so that children can learn English in an easy and natural way.



At **Level 1** children focus on the sounds they hear around them in daily life – at school, at home, in the park or in town. **Levels 1+ and 2** move onto practising the actual sounds (phonemes) and also start to introduce some alternative spellings of certain sounds (consonants).

In **Level 3** children continue practising new sounds and are introduced to alternative spellings of certain vowel sounds. **Level 4** revises all the sounds already introduced, before moving onto further alternative spellings as well as different pronunciations of the '-ed' ending.



By **Levels 5 and 5M** children put together their knowledge of all the alternative spellings and pronunciations they have learnt so far. The exercises help children reinforce the link between sounds and the different ways they can be written.

At **Level 6** the emphasis is on increasing your child's confidence and fluency through reading a range of Non-Fiction books.

## Your role as a parent



PHONICS FUN WITH BIFF, CHIP AND KIPPER has been designed to be used by children. However, it is both more enjoyable and more effective if you support them by using the software together.

As a parent you can support your child in a variety of ways. Your child will of course do the activities and read the stories, but you can help them build confidence by praising their progress and talking about the stories together.

Spend some time looking at the activities together to check your child understands what they are doing and encourage them to keep going. You could even help them out sometimes, for instance by recording your own voice to demonstrate a difficult sound.

Each book contains certain 'focus sounds' and 'focus words'.

The difficulty builds up carefully, so the best way to use the software is by doing the activities in the order they appear. Some of the sounds and spellings might be familiar to your child if they are already learning these at school, but the more they practise, the more confident they will become!



### HINT

For every completed exercise your child is rewarded with Stamps, Rule Cards and Vocabulary Cards. Please refer to the 'Features' section in the Quick Guide for more information!

## English as a second language

Not everyone learns English the same way, and there are some important things to consider, especially when your child is learning English as a second language:

- Make clear which language your child is practising at which moment. This avoids confusion for your child and it can be done easily, for instance by using specific items that act as a symbol for that particular language (like a scarf or a hat).
- Try to talk in English to your child when they are practising their English. This will make it easier for them to focus on one language at a time.
- If speaking English is difficult for you, this is a great opportunity to learn it together with your child. Your English does not have to be perfect, so try to speak English as much as you can when playing together!



# Meet the family!

## Floppy

Floppy is the Robinsons' pet dog. He loves playing with a stick or a ball and running all over the place. He often ends up covered in mud!



## Dad

Dad always tries to help, but things don't always turn out how he intends!



## Mum

Mum likes playing sports and taking Floppy for long walks.

## Kipper

Kipper is the youngest in the Robinson family. He likes to play with Biff, Chip and Floppy.



## Biff & Chip

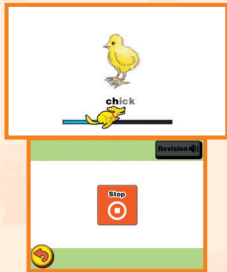
Biff and Chip are twins. Biff is always ready to join in with any game and she likes making things. Chip is very good at drawing.



# Look & Listen

## (Sounds and Letters - Levels 1 to 5M)

*Look & Listen* links sounds to pictures. In Level 1 this reminds children that every sound has a meaning, and in the higher levels it helps them learn the spelling patterns of the sounds (and words).



### ● What?

Get familiar with the meaning of different sounds in English by listening to sounds that correspond to certain letters and words. At Levels 1+ to 5M, encourage your child to look at the word as they hear the sound.

### ● Why?

*Look & Listen* teaches your child to connect sounds to visual information. This builds up your child's understanding of the connection between sounds and letters or words.

### ● How?

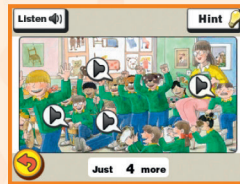
At Level 1, tap an icon on the touch screen to hear a sound. Try discussing what the sound is and what it means. For the higher levels, tap the **Listen** button to hear the new sound, or touch **Revision** to go through the sounds your child has learnt so far.



# Listen & Tap

## (Sounds and Letters - Level 1)

Encourage your child to find the sounds from *Look & Listen* in the big picture. Talk about what is happening in the picture and build a story together to help your child remember which sounds belong to which objects.



### ● What?

Listen to a range of sounds from daily life and ask your child: *Where is that sound coming from and what is making it?*

### ● Why?

*Listen & Tap* encourages your child to focus on a sound and match it to the correct picture, so that they learn each sound relates to an object, event or feeling.

### ● How?

Tap the audio icon next to the object the sound belongs to. Repeat the sound by touching **Listen** and reveal a visual clue on the top screen by tapping **Hint**.

# Say the Sounds + Try Saying It

(Sounds and Letters -  
Level 1)

In *Say the Sounds*, your child copies the sound they hear by recording their voice. In *Try Saying It*, your child practises words with the focus sounds for the book by recording themselves. This also helps your child build up their vocabulary.

## What?

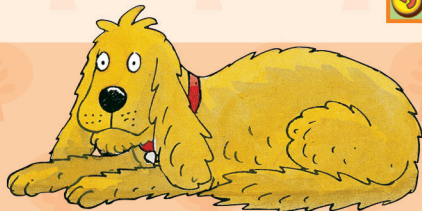
Listen to a series of sounds (Level 1) or words (Levels 1+ to 5M) and let your child practise saying them. Listen back to the recordings together to hear whether your child needs to practise a certain sound more.

## Why?

In *Say the Sounds*, your child will have a go at repeating the sounds they have heard, developing their understanding of the sounds they hear every day. In *Try Saying It* your child practises pronouncing words with the sounds they have already learnt.

## How?

Tap **Listen** to hear the sound or word and look at the top screen to see what it relates to. Your child can record themselves saying the sound or word by tapping **Speak**, and listen back to their recordings by touching **My Voice**.



# Same Sounds

(Sounds and Letters - Levels 1+ to 5M)

*Same Sounds* shows your child how the same sound appears in lots of different words, and also that a sound can be spelt in different ways (for example rain and day). In higher levels, your child will also encounter two different sounds that are spelt in the same way (for example school and chef).

## What?

In the earlier levels, your child matches the sounds they hear to an object in the picture, while in higher levels they learn that a sound can have more than one spelling, or the same spelling can be pronounced differently.

## Why?

*Same Sounds* helps your child understand that the relationship between sounds and letters is not always the same: a sound can be represented by different letters, and the same letters can represent different sounds.

## How?

Tap the audio icon next to an object to hear and see the word. Use the **Listen** button to repeat the sound that your child has to find and tap **Hint** to reveal a visual clue on the top screen.

## HINT

Some pictures extend beyond the screen. Slide the blue dot from left to right to discover everything there is to see in the picture!



# Listen & Write

## (Sounds and Letters - Levels 1+ to 5M)

In *Listen & Write* your child can practise writing the sounds they have been hearing and saying by following the examples shown on the top screen. Each time an example is written correctly, a tree on the top screen will grow a little. Practise a lot and make the sapling grow into a big tree!

### ● What?

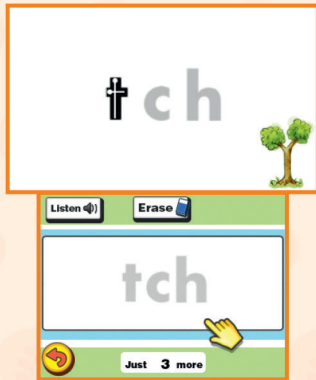
Listen to a sound and then practise writing it, following the example shown on the top screen.

### ● Why?

This activity allows your child to practise their writing and spelling, thereby reinforcing sound-letter correspondences.

### ● How?

Listen to the sound and look at the top screen to see which letter(s) should be written, and encourage your child to copy them on the touch screen. The **Listen** button repeats the sound and **Erase** wipes clean the touch screen.



## HINT

In the earlier levels, the top screen offers a hint on how to write each letter correctly. Encourage your child to follow the example to help them remember this!

# Listen & Choose

## (Sounds and Letters - Levels 1+ to 5M)

*Listen & Choose* offers the final practice of the focus sounds and words in each book, before moving on to the next book.

### ● What?

Your child has to remember the words from *Same Sounds* and find the correct object in the picture. Encourage your child to find all the matching objects and make the sapling grow into a big tree!

### ● Why?

In this exercise your child can show that they have understood the correspondence between the focus sounds and their spelling. After this, they can move on to a new book!

### ● How?

Listen to a word and let your child search for the matching object in the picture. By tapping **Listen** your child can hear the word again. Encourage them to do their best and show how much they have learnt so far!





# Moving on to Fiction and Non-Fiction

On the following pages you can find detailed advice on each study activity included in the Fiction and Non-Fiction books, but here is some advice that you can use for all of these books.

## Before Reading

Talk together

- When you have selected a book to read, touch the **Parent** button to check which focus phonics and focus words are covered in the book. Practise these together as a fun warm-up before reading the book!

## During Reading

Enjoy the exercises together

- Ask your child to point a finger from left to right under each word whilst reading.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Use the pictures to talk about the story and learn the meaning of new words.

## After Reading

Discuss the story together

- Ask your child to tell you what happened in the story.



# Story Time

## (Fiction - Levels 1+ to 5)

Now your child has practised all their sounds and letters, enjoy reading the exciting adventures of Biff, Chip, Kipper and Floppy!

### What?

Enjoy a narrated story with Biff, Chip, Kipper and their family and friends. Talk about what happens in the story and discover all the details in the pictures on the top screen.

### Why?

Reading stories will help your child strengthen their phonic learning as well as encourage them to develop a love of reading. Also, it is an entertaining way to learn new words and expand their vocabulary!

### How?

The story starts and progresses automatically. You can choose to **Pause** the story and **Repeat** a sentence by tapping the respective buttons on the touch screen.



## HINT

Keep an eye out for the magnifying glass on the top screen, as it highlights what is happening in the story!



# Read Aloud

(Fiction - Levels 1+ to 5)

*Read Aloud* enables your child to practise their reading skills by reading the story out loud, sentence by sentence. Encourage them to use lots of expression!



## What?

Encourage your child to pick a sentence they like and read the story bit by bit. Let them record and listen back to their own voice to hear how good their reading is!

## Why?

By reading aloud, your child builds their confidence in reading a story independently. Also, it is a good way to practise the different expressions they can use when reading a story out loud.

## How?

Your child can tap **Listen** to hear the sentence, use **Speak** to record their voice and tap **My Voice** to listen back to their recording. Touching **Skip** lets them skip a sentence and move on to the next line.



## HINT

Reading out 5 sentences is enough to complete the exercise. Therefore, try breaking up the story and read a different part each time so that your child is not overwhelmed by reading a whole story in one go.

# Story Questions

(Fiction - Levels 1+ to 5)

Time for a little quiz about the story you and your child have just read! Check how well your child has understood and remembered the story that they have read by asking them some *Story Questions*.

## What?

A question about the story appears on the top screen. Your child can answer it by tapping the correct option on the touch screen. The magnifying glass in the image on the top screen can help them find the correct answer.

## Why?

*Story Questions* checks how well your child understands the story. It also highlights the key words from the story, which contain many of the focus sounds for the level. This helps your child to extend their vocabulary.

## How?

Your child can tap **Listen** to hear the question and answers again, or touch **Hint** to find clues in the story text by scrolling with the yellow arrows.



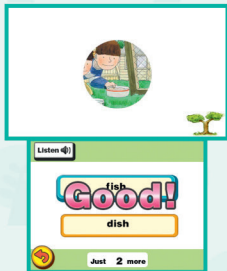
## HINT

If your child does not know the answer, try asking questions about the picture to see if they can remember the story.

# Do You Remember?

## (Fiction - Levels 1+ to 5)

Practise the key words from the story in *Do You Remember?* Try to listen carefully and encourage your child to show how many words they have remembered. Each correct answer will make the tree sapling grow bigger!



### ● What?

Your child practises the words they have read throughout the story by taking another quiz. Picking the right answer will reveal a picture of the correct word!

### ● Why?

Choosing the correct option out of two similar-looking words is another good way to practise the correspondence between sounds and letters. This exercise therefore builds on everything your child has learnt so far!

### ● How?

After hearing a word, your child has to choose the correct option on the touch screen to move on to the next question. Tap **Listen** to hear the word again.

# Try Writing It

## (Fiction - Levels 1+ to 5)

Now your child has learnt and practised several key words, it's time to have a go at spelling some words. In this final exercise your child has to put together everything they have learnt about the correspondence between sounds and letters!



### ● What?

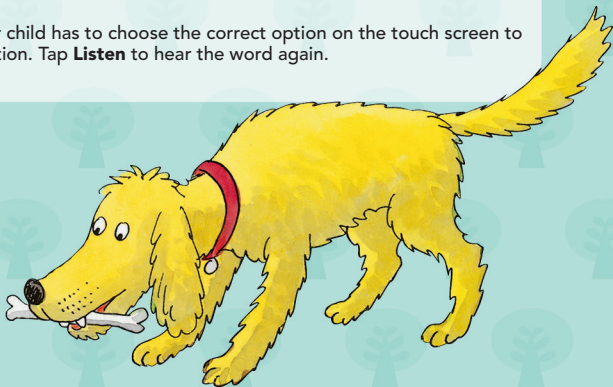
*Try Writing It* encourages your child to listen to a word and then try to spell it in the correct order. When they spell the word correctly, they can move on to the next one.

### ● Why?

In this exercise your child practises very important skills for writing. They learn to identify the individual sounds within a word and use their knowledge of the corresponding letters to write the word down.

### ● How?

Use the stylus to write the letters one by one on the touch screen. If your child does not know a letter, they can use the **Hint** button to see which letter comes next. The **Listen** button repeats the sound, and **Erase** wipes clean the touch screen.



## HINT

Talk about the words your child is writing. Help them to identify the sounds of the letters. Encourage your child to write the letters correctly.



# Non-Fiction

## (Levels 1+ to 6)

The *Non-Fiction* books give your child lots of interesting information while they also practise their reading skills. Make sure to discuss the content together, giving your child the chance to ask questions and fully understand what they are reading.

### ● What?

Discover more on a range of topics and ask your child to talk to you about what they find out.

### ● Why?

To fuel a love of reading, children benefit from experiencing both fiction and non-fiction. The *Non-Fiction* books provide your child with an enjoyable and interesting way to learn more about the world and at the same time practise their reading skills.

### ● How?

Encourage your child to read each page carefully on the top screen before they tap the yellow arrow to scroll between pages. Selecting **Auto** allows the pages to scroll automatically, and tapping the **Parent** button reveals all the text on the pages.



## HINT

Encourage your child to read each page of the book on their own, and then discuss the information together to check their comprehension.

# Let's Sing

## (Levels 1, 3 and 5)

Increase your child's confidence through entertaining songs. You and your child can choose to just listen, but singing along will certainly increase the fun!

### ● What?

Listen to a range of songs about the characters from the stories and other childhood experiences. Join in by singing along once your child knows the songs!

### ● Why?

Your child will enjoy listening to these songs! They can practise a range of words and rhythms by joining in.

### ● How?

Start the song by touching **Listen** and enjoy the music. Your child can even add their own rhythm to the music by tapping the instruments on the touch screen!



# Tips & Tricks

- The quickest way to learn is by having fun! Use the software together and encourage your child to try doing the exercises without your help.
- Make sure your child takes time to practise and repeat difficult exercises, encouraging them to do as much of it as they can. This also helps to build your child's confidence in reading.
- The Rule Cards and Vocabulary Cards that your child gathers by doing exercises are stored inside the Collection. Check the Card Book and use these cards to revise the sounds and vocabulary your child has learnt so far!
- Most importantly, remember that your child will learn much faster with lots of encouragement, praise and hugs!

For further help, visit [www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) which provides more tips and phonics support for parents and children.

## Also available:



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