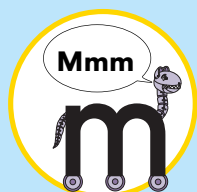


Tricks and Strategies

Strategies for children



Sound Trick (initial phoneme segmenting)

Just say the Letterlander's name and start to say it again, but this time stop with just the first sound. That is exactly the sound this letter makes in words.



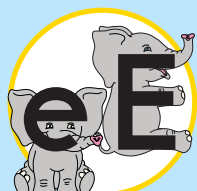
Action Trick (VAK phoneme cues)

Each Letterlander has made up an action for you, to help you remember the sound. Just do the action and say the sound.



Alliteration Trick (phonemic awareness)

The Letterlanders have a trick so you can predict what they like by listening for their sounds at the beginning of words. Lucy Lamp Light especially likes animals like lions, lambs, llamas and lizards etc.



Uppercase Trick (Upper and lowercase link)

The Letterlanders help us remember their uppercase shapes even when they don't look at all like their lowercase shapes. Each one has a special trick they do whenever they get a chance to start an important word like a name or the beginning of a sentence. Here is Eddy Elephant's 'Elephant on End' trick.



Roller Coaster Trick (blending to read)

Even when we know each Letterlander's sound, blending letter sounds smoothly can be a challenge. Imagine that your outstretched arm is a roller coaster hill. Place the sounds on it, then slide your hand down the roller coaster as you blend the sounds to read the word.



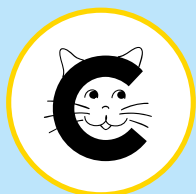
Rubber Band Trick (segmenting to spell)

Hearing each letter sound in a word isn't easy. It helps to pretend you are stretching a big rubber band as you slowly say the word. As you stretch a word, it is far easier to segment each sound. Use this trick whenever you need to segment a word and spell it.

Strategies for teachers

Letter sounds

Use these activities to help children move from learning the Letterlander's names to instantly and automatically responding to the plain letter with the correct sound.



Picture Coding (grapheme to phoneme practice)

Encourage children to draw character details on to plain letter shapes to help fuse together the letter sound, shape and spatial orientation.



'Quick Dash' (grapheme to phoneme practice)

Revise and consolidate letter shapes and letter sounds. Use the *Picture Code Cards* or *Story Phonics* software to work towards a quick and automatic letter sound response to a plain letter.



'Guess Who?' (phoneme to grapheme practice)

Review the letter sounds and shapes by making the sound and then encouraging the children to recall the shape before revealing the *Picture Code Card*.

Letter shapes

With the activities below, children learn to form the letters correctly, to avoid reversals in reading and spelling, and to recognise both lowercase and uppercase versions of all 26 letters.



Reading Direction (letter formation)

Use a Reading Direction sign to help children read and build words from left to right. This helps avoid confusion between letters such as **b**, **d**, **p** and **q**.



Air-tracing to pencil writing

Consolidate handwriting skills by making the shapes in the air before committing pens or pencils to paper.

Strategies for teachers

Reading and spelling words

These strategies help children blend sounds into words and segment words into sounds.



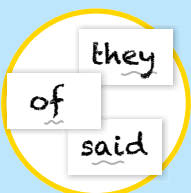
'Live Reading' (blending)

Develop children's understanding of how to blend phonemes and read words by encouraging them to hold cards and make the sounds individually, then blend them using the *Roller Coaster Trick*.



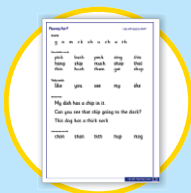
'Live Spelling' (segmenting)

Engage children in listening for phonemes in a word. Use the *Rubber Band Trick* to stretch the word, segment each sound and build it in front of the class using *Picture Code Cards*.



'Tricky' words

Introduce 'tricky' words regularly. Encourage decoding of the regular parts. Use the *Phonics Readers* to increase exposure to common 'tricky' words.



Fluency

Build towards automatic word recognition of decodable words, 'tricky' words and read sentences with expression and fluency using the Fluency Lists and activities in the *Phonics Teacher's Guide*.