

Letters & Sounds

Cheat Sheet

Forming Groups

Complete assessment and put students into phase groups.

- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 4
- Phase 5
- Phase 6

Setting Schedules

Set schedules that work for you. Ideally, each rotation lasts for 15-20 minutes and runs each day. See the next page for example schedules.

Independent Activities

What can students do at their desks?

- Phoneme Frames: Students divide words into sounds.

sh	o	p
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- Buried Treasure: Students sort real and nonsense words.
- Sound Buttons: Students put a dot under each sound.

ch	at
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- Sentences: Put words into sentences.

Teacher Led

Daily Routine:

- Flash cards of sounds (all within that phase).
- Nonsense words (including target sounds).
- Flash cards of sight words.
- Introduction to sound / concept.
- Intentional teaching: Group activity and lesson.
- Conclusion: Reading sentences with target sounds / writing sentences to apply sounds.

About Assessment

Complete assessment:

- Before grouping to allocate phases.
- When you finish the lesson sequence related to a particular phase.
- Assess if they can read and write target sounds, as well as if they can apply a knowledge of these sounds to decode nonsense words.

Teacher Tips

- Include opportunities to decode nonsense words in each lesson.
- Display word lists on board for independent groups. Use the same list for the week, just change the activity. This will save you planning time!

Useful Resources

- Letters and Sounds website: <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds.html>
- Phonics Games (Paid Resource): <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>
- Free Example Planning: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Planning.htm>

Example Structures



Ideal time frame: 15-20 minute rotations. Teacher works with one group while the other group/s work independently.

Two Groups:

- 2 x 15 minute rotations each day (see both groups).

Three Groups:

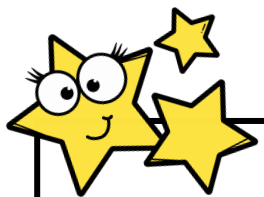
- Day 1: See Phase 2 and Phase 3, Phase 4 works independently for both rotations.
- Day 2: See Phase 3 and Phase 4, Phase 2 works independently for both rotations.
- Day 3: See Phase 2 and Phase 4, Phase 3 works independently for both rotations.
- Repeat cycle.

Four Groups:

- Day 1: See Phase 2 and Phase 3, Phase 4 and 5 work independently for both rotations.
- Day 2: See Phase 4 and Phase 5, Phase 2 and 3 work independently for both rotations.
- Repeat cycle.

In a single year level, it is unlikely you will have the full six phases in one class.

To make planning easier, and to provide more instruction time to students, you can group students together even if they are not in their exact phase. These mixed groups will still provide an opportunity for revision and extension. If you want to have just two groups, you can group students together with similar phases. E.g. Phase 2 and 3 as one group, and Phase 4 and 5 as another group. However, each teacher will have a way of structuring their time that best suits them.



Just a Note...

Note: This cheat sheet is not endorsed or created by the Letters and Sounds program. It is simply something I have created based on my experience teaching this program. I have compiled information that works within my school and classroom, however, each school may teach this differently.