

## Blending with Fred Talk

### Oral blending

This starts as early on as Nursery and is the key in getting your child to hear and recognise sounds in words - Staff will often speak in 'Fred talk' when giving simple instructions to children in the classroom. It's so easy and a great game to play at home too. E.g. 'Go and get your *c-oo-t* on' or 'Pick up your *p-e-n*.'

### Fred Talk



Meet Fred! You've probably heard a lot about him already - Fred is a visual reminder to the children that they are expected to segment the sounds in the word, before blending them together to read - we call this 'Fred talk'.

We use **pure sounds** ('*mmmm*' not 'muh', '*sssss*' not 'suh', etc.) so that your child will be able to blend the sounds into words more easily.

E.g. *m-o-p* - mop      *c-a-t* - cat      *m-a-n* - man

The following video is an example of blending sounds with Fred.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w> Q

### Fred in your head!

As children progress through the programme and become more confident with blending, they are taught and encouraged to 'Fred in their head' rather than Fred talking out loud to sound words out. Children look at the word and sound it out in their head before reading the whole word out loud with no Fred talk. This ensures that childrens' reading becomes more fluent and pacey. Children are then able to focus and build on, other reading skills. For example, comprehension.