

Red Rhythms

Red Rhythms are used to spell Red Words ('tricky' words – see below and list of Red Words with circled graphemes on p.238). These Red Words for spelling are found in the Spelling panel in Yellow, Blue and Grey *Get Writing!* Books.

Use M^TY^T to spell out the word using letter names, and place emphasis on the letters making up the tricky grapheme, e.g. in:

said, say the letter names in a rhythm, S-AI-D, with 'A-I' in an exaggerated manner

would, say the letter names in a rhythm, W-OUL-D, with O-U-L in an exaggerated manner.

Red Words

Red Words ('tricky' words) are common words with a low-frequency grapheme, e.g.

- **said**: the sound 'e' is written with the grapheme ai;
- **son**: the sound 'u' is written with the grapheme o;
- **your**: the sound 'or' is written with the grapheme our.

Only the most common graphemes are included on the Speed Sounds poster.

Red Words are printed in red in the Storybooks up to Orange Level.

Silent handwriting signal

Once children are sitting at their tables, hold up a pencil – real or imaginary – in a pencil grip with the non-writing hand flat – holding imaginary paper.

This signal indicates that children sit with their:

- feet flat on the floor
- bottom at the back of the chair
- body one fist from the table
- shoulders down and relaxed
- back leaning forward slightly
- left/right hand holding the page
- left/right hand ready in a tripod grip.

Special friends

Special friends are a combination of two or three letters representing one sound, e.g. *ck, ph, ay, igh* (digraphs and trigraphs). Ensure children always say the sound and not the letter names, e.g. *ck* not *c* and *k*.

Speedy Green Words

Speedy Green Words are common words with common graphemes that are included frequently in the Storybooks. These words are *always* taught first by sound-blending. The children practise reading the words at speed so they can read the story without sounding out each word. The children's effort can then go into understanding the story.

Please note that this activity is *not* the same as teaching children to work out the word 'on sight'. Children must be able to sound out the word before building up speed.

There are Speedy Green Word Cards available for Red, Green, Purple, Pink and Orange Storybooks, as well as printable versions in the [Storybook files in Read Write Inc. Phonics Online](#).