



What is a decodable book?

A decodable book is one that is made up of words in which the very large majority can be read independently as the letters and sounds have been previously taught. It will be very closely matched to the stage children are working at in Phonics.

For children in Reception and starting to learn Phonics it will contain simple CVC words like 'sat', 'pat' and red words 'I' and 'the'. As children learn more sounds they will progress to books that will contain words made up of alternative graphemes like 'ou', 'ie' and split digraphs.

There is a huge emphasis on Schools  
sending home decodable books  
matched to the stage children are  
working at.

The National Curriculum states children should be taught to: 'read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words.'



Why decodable books?

- 1.They make children feel successful and learn to use phonic strategies as the prime approach to reading.
2. As soon as children have learnt a small number of letters and their corresponding sounds they can begin to apply this knowledge in their reading including reading words they've never seen before.
3. They provide the opportunity to revisit and review previously taught knowledge.
4. They encourage independence in reading.



How can I support my child to read a decodable book at home?



1. Look together at the graphemes and red words the book contains before you read it (normally found either on the back or inside the front cover).
2. Encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge and 'sound out' the words.
3. Encourage your child to place their finger underneath the word they are trying to read to stop them getting lost.
4. If they are struggling with a word model segmenting and blending it yourself.