



Top Tips for Teaching Phonics Online



Top Tip 1: Phonics adapts easily to online delivery

Use the digital lesson resources to guide your teacher input

- ★ Everything is ready for teaching online
- ★ Share your screen and use the PowerPoints and other resources to guide your lesson
- ★ Keep the main teaching routine: Review → Teach → Hook

What happens next?

Options:

- ★ Set a simple independent task (e.g. worksheet or activity)
- ★ Apply skills as a group (e.g. children to write and reveal words on whiteboards or on paper). You can then model, scaffold, and provide feedback in real time.



Adapt where needed - this is crucial

- ★ Simplify tasks for home use
- ★ Focus on the learning, not the format

Tip 2. Make Participation Visible, Not Just Audible

Online learning changes how children respond. Whole-class speaking can be tricky due to audio lag, so prioritise **visible responses over use of audio.**

Try:

- "Show me your mouth"
- Thumbs up/down
- Write and hold up
- Joining in with actions

If you can see it, you can assess it.

When is audio useful? Audio can be really powerful in online learning - it just needs to be used **intentionally**, rather than as the default for everything.

Tip 3. Keep every child active

The golden rule:

Children should be doing something - not listening for long periods

Build in constant responses:

- ★ My turn → your turn
- ★ Air writing
- ★ Silent blending
- ★ Writing on paper or whiteboards and holding up

Passive listening leads to lost attention very quickly online.

Tip 4. Model more, not less

Clear modelling becomes even more important online.

- Exaggerate mouth movements slightly
- Repeat sounds clearly
- Use a whiteboard for live modelling where appropriate
- Track left to right when blending

Children learn by watching you closely

Tip 5. Use an MP eBook to bring the lesson together

- Exaggerate mouth movements slightly
- Repeat sounds clearly
- Use a whiteboard for live modelling where appropriate
- Track left to right when blending

A simple, effective way to end the session