



Hazel Wood Infant School

Phonics Fact Sheet

Sounds

- There are 44 sounds in the English language
- A sound is the smallest unit of sound within a word
- Each sound has one mouth movement
- Sounds should be *pure* with no residual sound

Graphemes

- A written representation of a sound
- 1 sound has 1 grapheme

S - P - L - A - SH

. . . . .

Consonant Clusters - e.g. pl, tr, ff, ss

- 80 consonant clusters in English
- No need to teach these separately if children are taught to blend sounds effectively

Sounds that are not sounds

X = C + S

Qu = C + W

Nk = Ng + K



## The English Spelling System

- A very complex spelling system
- There is a mis-match between the language of everyday use (Anglo-Saxon) and language of learning (Latin)
- When we inherit words from other languages we don't change the spelling to fit our spelling system
- Other languages e.g. Italian, 'a' is always a. In English it can be ay, a-e, ae, eigh etc.

## The Reading Process

We move from the grapheme to the sound to the word, e.g.  
ch air

## The Spelling Process

We move from the word to the sound to the grapheme

Chair (ch) (air) ch air

## Pure Sounds

- These can only be produced slowly and softly to make sure there is no residual sound
- Regional accents are not an issue when producing vowel sounds, as long as we are consistent and clear in the way that we say them