

What is analytic phonics?



The analytic method teaches children to read by grouping words and recognising similarities between them. Rather than looking at individual sounds then blending, children are taught to compare whole words to identify patterns.

Examples

Take a look at these words:

sprain plain paint saint main dainty

Your child might notice that all the words contain 'ain'.

Here's another example:

foundation caution declaration

obligation question

The group of letters 'tion' appears at the end of each word. Once children know, learn and recognise these commonalities, they can use these letter-sound relationships to help them read new words.

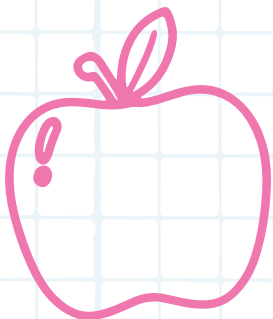
Comparing Synthetic Phonics to Analytic Phonics

Synthetic Phonics

- This method teaches individual letter-sound relationships.
- Children blend individual sounds together to make words.
- Children are taught to recognise the sounds represented by individual letters or groups of letters before they start to look at whole words.
- Children are taught letter sounds before they learn to read and potentially before they are introduced to books.

Analytic Phonics

- This method encourages children to compare some whole words to identify common letter patterns.
- From this, children can deduce some letter-sound relationships. They might not be told directly or explicitly by the teacher; children are encouraged to infer the letter-sound relationships in words themselves.
- They use these letter-sound relationships to help them read new words.
- Letter sounds are taught after reading has begun.



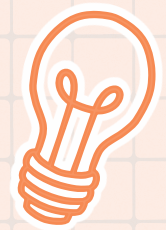
Advantages

Supporters of analytic phonics might argue that fluent readers tend to approach new words this way. For instance, as adults we look for letter-sound relationships we know within the word to help us work it out. It might also speed up reading new words - rather than looking at each individual sound, we are looking for patterns that we have seen in other words.

Disadvantages

There is the potential for children to get confused. There are over 1000 grapheme-to-phoneme relationships in English, so children may become overwhelmed with the inconsistencies in spelling. It can also be argued that children move away from understanding the phonetic structure of a word (the building blocks of a word) and move towards memorising whole words.

It is worth noting that several methods might be used alongside each other to teach a child to read. This is sometimes called a balanced approach.



We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.