

Jolly Phonics Extra. Jolly Learning.

ISBN 978 1 84414 268 2

Background.

In 1975, I watched Jean Augur teaching at the (then) Dyslexia Institute. I thought that no child could possibly need so much detail. Within two weeks, all my pupils had reading and spelling packs, as in the Hickey scheme.

Jolly Phonics, first published in 1992, includes most of the Hickey principles. The synthesised phonics scheme is intended for Primary School starters. It was used in the landmark Clackmannanshire project in 1997, which led to many new schemes and the Rose Review.

Enhanced version.

Now Chris Jolly has published Jolly Phonics Extra, for school starters and for later intervention for Infant pupils and lower Juniors. It has many varied and enjoyable activities for the multisensory reinforcement and overlearning that 'at risk' pupils need. It would be excellent for children whose poor phonological awareness is flagged by the Phonics Check test. The Teacher's book and the Pupils' books have structured lesson plans with attractive presentations.



The Extras.

The unique extra features are a TalkingPEN and a pronunciation guide.

For each page of the Letter Sounds book the **TalkingPEN** has mp3 human voice audio files.

- A story, with words emphasising the target letter-sound, for listening only.
- The letter-sound.
- The illustrative action.
- The letter formation.
- Words (letter sounds blended).
- A song.

With the pen, you just touch parts of the page gently, (unlike digital reading pens which you drag across the text). The audio files of the 54 reading books in 3 levels include:

- A question about the picture.

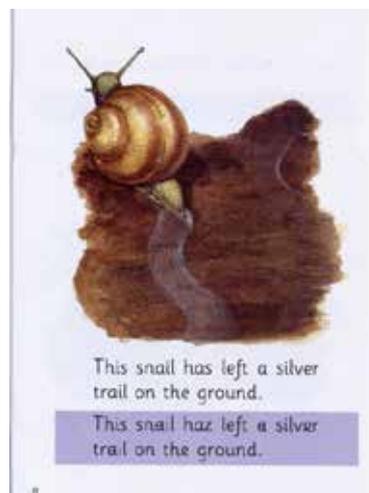


- A comment when you touch the right item in response.
- Items in the picture named as you touch them.
- The text of the page.

It is lovely for a small group to listen together, taking turns with the TalkingPEN. An individual can listen, with a headset, and then tell someone what he or she has heard.

The **pronunciation guide** is a second, shaded, version of the text of each page of the story books. It shows faint font for silent letters, and 12 symbols like a dictionary key for confusable alternative spellings. So, for example, there is a symbol for the long /ee/ sound, when it is written as in 'be, bee, bean, these, funny'. This is for reference, not for writing, and can be used as much or as little as the pupil chooses. In trials in 2009, one child said this:

- "The little sounds help you out if you get stuck."
- "If I look at it down here I can work it out myself."



The books.

Five years ago, I bought the reading books (before the extra features were available) for my grandchildren to use as they learned to read. Dominic preferred the non-fiction set at each level. Isabel liked the fiction sets best, and Katy liked them all. (The third genre has stories about the Jolly Phonics characters.) Children need to learn all 42 phonemes in the Letter Sound book before starting the reading books.

I always wished that Jolly Phonics had a keyword for every phoneme, for children to elicit the sound. Most letters do, e.g. F f is well associated with 'fish', but a plane going 'nnnnnnnnn' does not identify a keyword for N n. The introduction of alternative spelling choices is much better than originally, but some dyslexic children need even more detailed tuition. They also need more reference to graphemes already learned, when introducing a new one for the same sound.

The whole scheme.

The Hickey-type **reading pack** is there in the flash cards. The **spelling pack element** is included with dictation of the phonemes learned so far, in every lesson plan. Synthetic phonics will be effective if teacher, teaching assistant or parent uses every aspect of the whole scheme.

The kit comes in a sturdy box and costs £175.00 including VAT.

See details on [Jolly Phonics Extra web](#).

Jean Hutchins, AMBDA, New Technologies Committee.