

Mnemonics and Rhymes to support Essential Letters and Sounds in Reception

s – snake – **swerve around the snake**

a – ant – **around the head, down the body**

t – teacher – **down her body and cross her shoulders**

p – parrot – **down his body, around his face**

i – inventor – **down her body, spot her idea**

n – nest – **down the bird and over her nest**

m – meerkat – **meerkat, mound, mound**

d – duck – **over his back and around the tail, up his neck and down to his feet**

g – goat – **start at his ear, around the face and down the beard**

o – ostrich – **around the ostrich's body**

c – camel – **curl around the camel's back**

k – kid – **down the body, up the arm, down the leg**

ck – a camel and a kid – **the camel stood by the kid**

e – elephant – **around the head and down the trunk**

u – umbrella – **under the umbrella and down to the tip**

r – runner – **down her body, up over the arm**

ss – two snakes – **sunbathing snakes**

h – heron – **from his head to his feet, up and over his back**

b – bike – **down the person and around the wheel**

f – fox – **over the ear, down to the tail and across the jaw**

ff – two foxes – **two foxes facing forwards**

l – ladder – **down the long ladder**

ll – two ladders – **ladders in a line**

j – jellyfish – **swoop down the tentacles and dot the body**

v – viper – **down the tongue, up the tongue**

w – wallaby – **hop to the top, land and hop, land and hop**

x – x x x – **criss-cross the kiss**

y – yacht – **under the hull and down to the anchor**

z – zigzag – **zig and zag**

zz – two zigzags – **a zigzag duet**

qu – quill – **around the feather and down the pen**

ch chew the chunky chips

sh the shabby ship shook

th they were thirsty

ng ping pong

nk oooh! a pink sink

ai wait for the train

ee bee on my knee

igh light up the night

oa float on the moat

oo	the book nook
ar	a far star
ur	turn in the surf
oo	scoop with a spoon
or	order some popcorn
ow	prowl and growl
oi	coin in the soil
ear	clear that smear
air	a pair in the lair
ure	sure it's the cure
er	a bitter winter
ow	go slow in the snow

Alternative spellings:

<ay> /ai/	play all day
<ou> /ow/	a proud cloud
<ie> /igh/	pie on your tie
<ea> /ee/	each have a treat
<oy> /oi/	the boy cries 'ahoy!'
<ir> /ur/	a quirky shirt
<ue> /oo/	true, the sky's blue
<aw> /or/	fawn on the lawn
<wh> /w/	whip with a whisk
<ph> /f/	photo on a phone
<ew> /oo/	the crew flew
<oe> /oa/	tiptoe past the doe
<au> /or/	pause the launch
<ey> /ee/	use money to buy honey
<a-e> /ai/	cake by the lake
<e-e> /ee/	the athletes compete
<i-e> /igh/	time to shine
<o-e> /oa/	note in an envelope
<u-e> /(y)oo/	tune on the flute
<c> /s/	cycle in the city