

HELPING PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILD THROUGH PHONICS

Academic Team: Rachael Hulme, Charlotte Webber, Amy Fox, Laura Shapiro, Jessie Ricketts, Jo Taylor

Family Learning Teams: Barnsley, Doncaster, Birmingham, York, and Leicester, the National Literacy Trust

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Do phonics courses offered by family learning teams improve parents' reading and related skills?
- Do courses improve reading self-confidence and confidence to support their child with reading?

ABOUT PHONICS COURSES

Phonics courses aim to provide parents with the skills they need to support their children's reading. These skills include **phonological awareness**, **letter sound knowledge** and **decoding**.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS



Word cards with sound buttons in pairs

LETTER SOUND KNOWLEDGE

Find pictures beginning with initial letter or ending in final letters

DECODING SKILLS



sounding out nonsense word names of aliens

OUR MATERIALS

Parents completed these tasks in the first and last weeks of the course. We compared these scores to see if there were any changes over time.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS



Repeat words aloud and practice deleting phonemes

DECODING SKILLS



Pronounce nonsense words as quickly as possible

LETTER SOUND KNOWLEDGE



Say the sound each letter or grapheme makes

READING CONFIDENCE



Questions about reading at home

PARTICIPANTS



PHONICS GROUP

50 parents enrolled on Family Learning Phonics courses

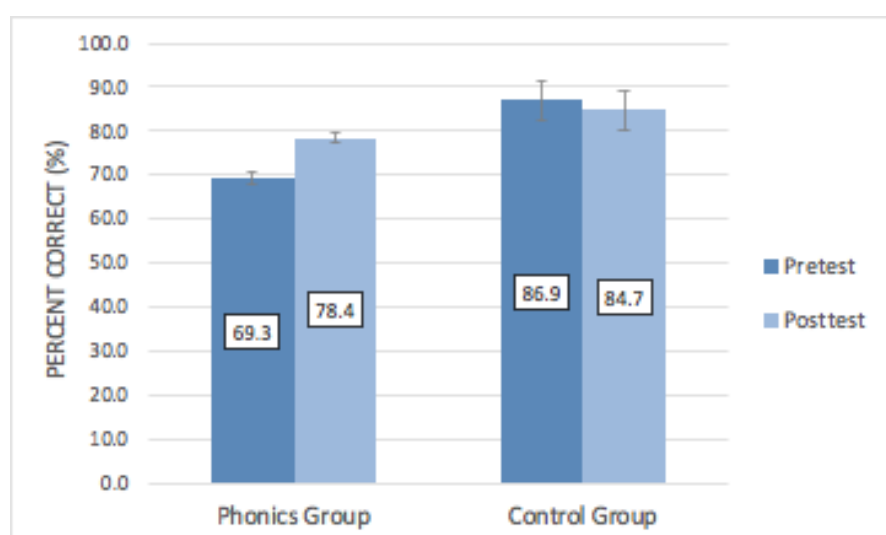


CONTROL GROUP

76 parents enrolled on maths courses or not enrolled on a course at all

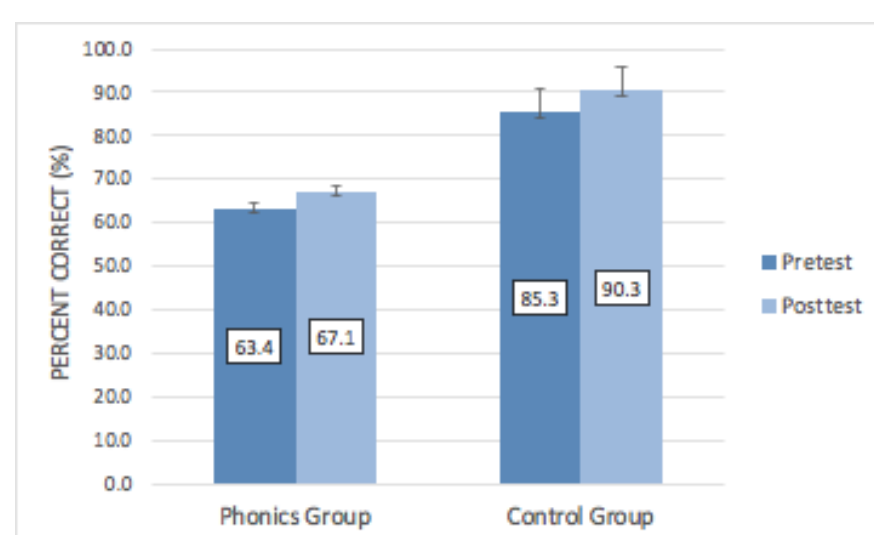
OUR FINDINGS

LETTER SOUND KNOWLEDGE



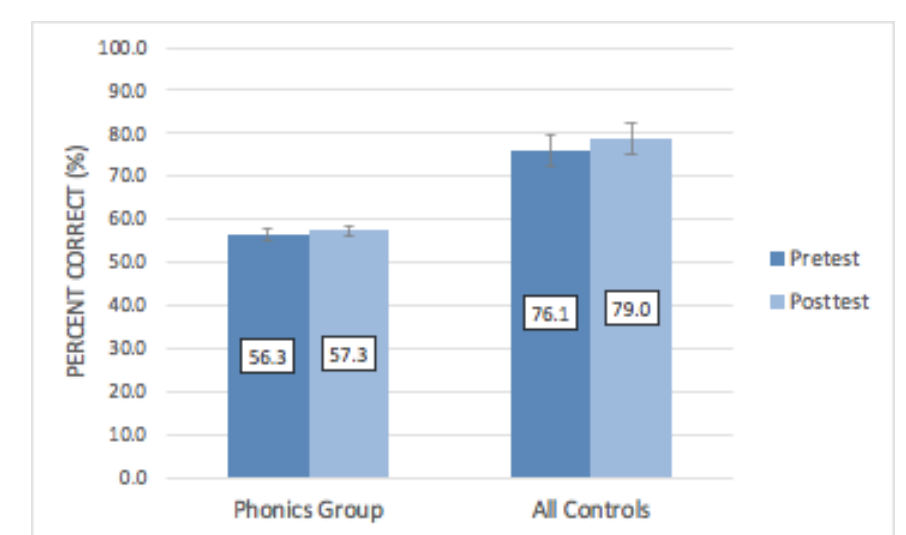
The Phonics group showed higher average letter sound knowledge scores at post-test compared to pre-test. The same increase was not found in the control group.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS



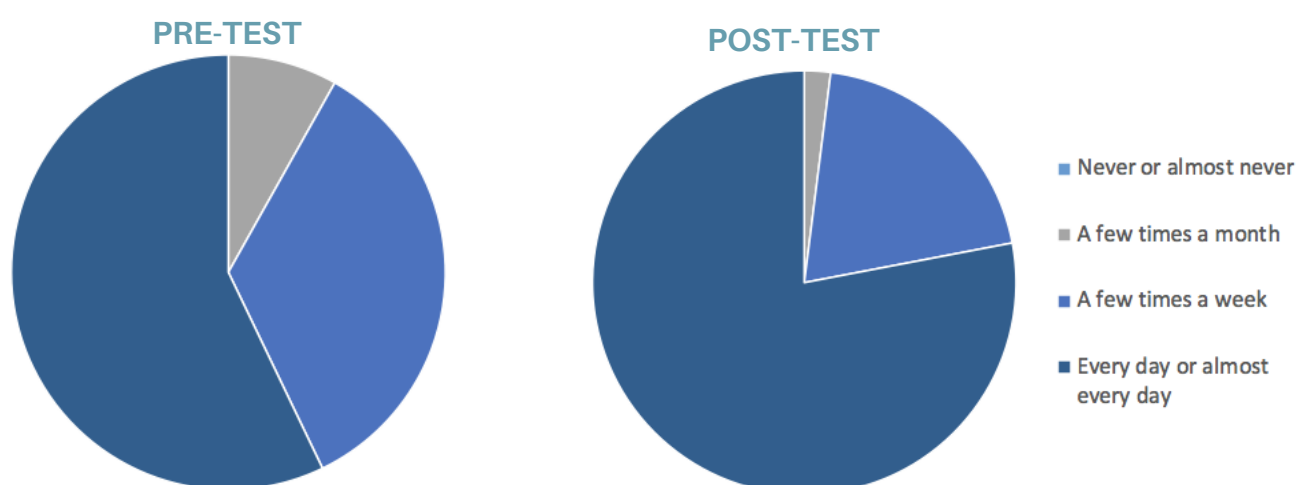
Parents in the phonics group scored lower on average than parents in the control group on both the phonological awareness and decoding tasks. Both groups made a small improvement over time, probably due to practice effects.

DECODING SKILLS



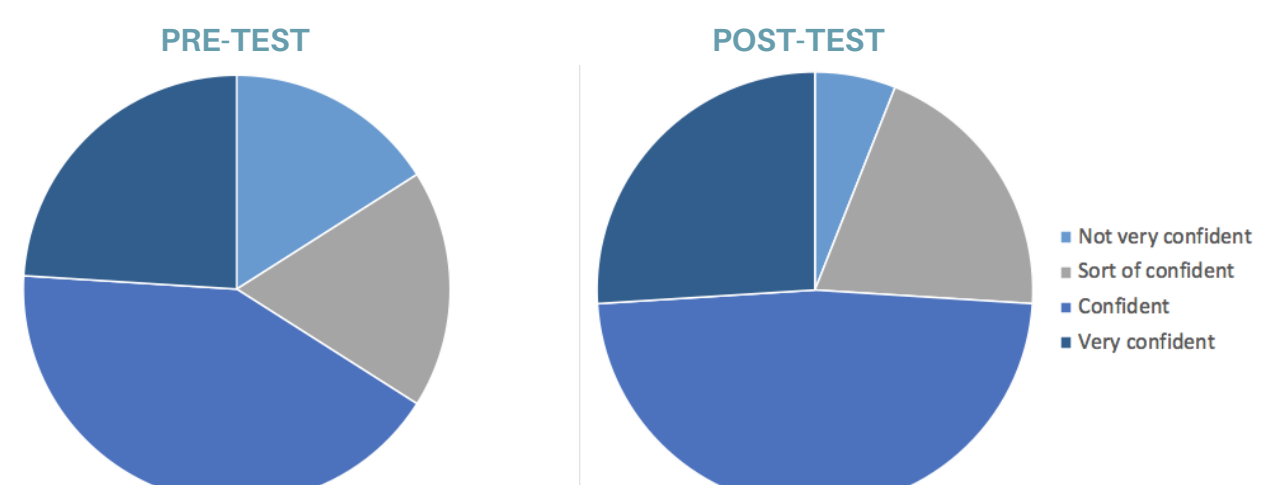
How often do you help your child with reading/writing activities for school?

PHONICS GROUP



How confident do you feel helping your child with reading or writing homework?

PHONICS GROUP



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Phonics courses are correctly targeting parents with low phonics skills.
- Phonics courses can improve parents' letter sound knowledge, even over a relatively short period of time.
- Some reading-related skills, particularly decoding and phonological awareness, are harder to change and may require more input.
- Participating in phonics courses increases parents' confidence in supporting their children with reading.

CONTACTS:

Dr Jo Taylor, UCL: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/people/jo-taylor>
 Dr Jessie Ricketts, Royal Holloway University: <http://pc.rhul.ac.uk/sites/lara/>
 Dr Laura Shapiro, Aston University: <https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/laura-shapiro>

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