Three phases of early literacy development
(Frith)

Logographic phase

Basic sight vocabulary – high frequency words, or words with special significance
Words recognised holistically – from overall shape
Similar looking words confused
No understanding of sound/letter correspondence

Alphabetic Phase

Recognition of sound/letter correspondence
Decoding and encoding take place
Phonic knowledge used
Pupil can spell simple, regular words
Errors are phonetic (coff/cough)
Lack of sophisticated knowledge of word structure
Reading slow and laboured – limited fluency

Orthographic Phase

Rapid whole word recognition – holistic
Words become sight vocabulary
Reading fluency achieved
Understands sophisticated spelling patterns