

Phonics



A guide to ways you can support your child at home.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a teaching programme that aims to develop children's speaking and listening skills as well as preparing children to read and write by developing their phonic knowledge and skills.



Early Phonics

Early phonics is vitally important as it lays the foundations for reading and writing, it is an ongoing phase where your child will:

- ✚ Explore and experiment with both sounds and words.
- ✚ Listen carefully, identify and talk about sounds.
- ✚ Understand spoken words are made up of sounds.

Painting with water outside is a great way to develop physical skills necessary for writing.

Why not use sticks to draw in the sand or the mud in the back garden.



The messier the better, shaving foam, playdough, even a tray of rice or lentils are all great fun to make patterns in.



Environmental Sounds

- ✚ Go on a listening walk - see how many sounds you can hear as you are walking: birds singing, wind blowing, trees rustling, dogs barking. How many sounds can they remember when they get home?
- ✚ Create a picture of their sounds walk.
- ✚ Play in the garden –make sounds by running sticks along a wall, fence or tap the shed, plant pot, in.
- ✚ Hide it – hide an egg timer in a room and try to find it using the ticking sound.
- ✚ Hide and seek – in this version the person who hides makes a noise with an object such as keys, crisp packet or phone. Can they find you? Can they guess what is making the sounds?
- ✚ Sound shakers – use plastic bottles or old sock's tied at the top. Put soil, pasta, rice, water inside.



A family day out to the farm.

Excellent opportunity for a sound walk.

Oral Blending and Segmenting.

Bounce a ball making the sound “b,b,b”



Hop making the sound “h,h,h,” or jump with a “j,j,j”

- ✚ Play I Spy – Say, “I spy a t-r-ee.” See if your child can blend the sounds together to make the word.
- ✚ Can you do it? – Ask your child to h-o-p, stand on one l,e,g, touch their f-ee-t, j-u-m-p.
- ✚ Have a pretend picnic – Use a puppet. Explain he can only speak in “sound talk”. Pretend the puppet would like some h-a-m, ch-ee-se, b-r-ea-d. Can your child pretend to be the puppet?

When your child is really good at putting the sounds back together, swap and see if they can break up words for you to guess.