



## Phonics



Phase 1 is the first phase that will be taught to children at nursery; this phase focuses on developing children's speaking, listening and awareness of sound. Developing these skills creates foundations for when children begin to learn their letters and sounds in later phases. During this phase, your child will begin to distinguish between different sounds within their environment and may begin to show an awareness of rhyme and alliteration.

Go on a listening walk. Sounds are all around us, why not go on a listening walk with your child and try to identify the different sounds that you hear along the way?



Putting objects in a 'feely bag' and playing a guessing game can be lots of fun. Fill a bag or pillowcase with a handful of items from around the home, such as a toothbrush, comb, teddy, spoon and building block, then get your child to reach inside and pull one out. Can they say what the item is, and recognise and identify its initial sound?

"t, t, teddy!" "s, s, sock!"

## Phonics



Phase two is the second phase of phonics that will be taught to children. This phase builds upon the oral blending and segmenting skills that were learnt in phase one. Children will continue to practice these skills, whilst being introduced to the grapheme-phoneme (letters and sounds) representations for 19 letters. In addition, they will learn that some phonemes (sounds) can be represented by more than one grapheme (letter). For example, the sound 'f' is the same in fin and huff, though one has one letter and the other has two.

Once children begin to build a knowledge of grapheme-phoneme correspondence, they will then be taught to read simple words containing the sounds and letters they have been taught.

Children are also taught 'sight words.' These are words that cannot be sounded out with normal phonic blending techniques are called 'sight words'. Instead of sounding out, your child will eventually learn to recognise these words on sight.



As your child develops their knowledge of letters and sounds, get them practicing their letter formation in interesting ways. Instead of paper and pencils, trace the letter shapes with your finger in a tray filled with sand, glitter, shaving foam or paint. These mark-making activities can help further support their fine motor development (small muscle movements).

Active phonics is a great way to engage learners who prefer to be outside doing big movements. Why not create a hopscotch outside, replacing numbers for the letters they have been learning at school? Or use paint brushes and buckets of water to do some letter formation on the floor outside?

Magnetic letters are a versatile resource that you can use at home to engage your child in phonics. Simply stick them on the fridge and see what silly words you can make up. Make a mini fishing rod with a paperclip at the end and go fishing for letters and sounds!

Phase 2 Sounds									
s	a	t	p	i	n	m	d		
g	o	c	k	ck	e	u	r		
h	b	f	ff	l	ll	ss			