



Phonics at home



Phonics Folders

- Every Monday
- 4 sounds initially
- The children can colour the picture.
- Encourage your child to practise the letter formation using the tripod writing grasp.
- If your child doesn't want to write the letter with a pencil, encourage them to write in the air, mud, sand, rice etc.
- Practise sounds 5 days a week



Homework Sheets

- New sound
- How to do the 'action'
- Encouraging your child to write and say the sound
- Share some words with the sounds in
- Later on....games/word writing etc
- Links to videos supporting the pronunciation of sounds are uploaded on website, dojo and included on powerpoint.



Next Steps

Turn them into flash cards

- Collection of items beginning with/including that sound...which ones start with include the '....' sound? Which one is missing? Can your child find some more items to add to the collection?
- Write it on the bathroom wall with shaving foam
- Draw it in some sand
- Out and about "I can see something that begins with the sound '....'"
- What does 'goat' begin with?
- Practise, Practise, Practise (It is important that children keep practising the recognition of the sounds at home)
- Write the letters on paper and hide them around the house. Ask the child to find a particular sound when asked.
- Write sounds on the wall outside or on pieces of paper and put them up outside. Get a squirty bottle full of water and ask your child to squirt a particular sound.
- Make a car park on large paper and ask your child to park their car in a particular car parking spot.





Here are lots of fun and easy ways to help get your child ready to read. The most obvious way is through sharing and enjoying books together, but singing nursery rhymes, playing 'I spy' in the car and talking about your child's day can all help your child to develop important very early reading skills. Here are some simple ideas of things to try with your child.

Things to try with your child

➤ 1. Talk together

It might seem odd to suggest something that all parents do with their children every day, but spending time talking to your child about their day, about their play and about things around them encourages the development of speaking and listening skills, so important when children go on to start learning to read.

➤ 2. Talk about books, words and pictures

Before you start reading a book, talk about the title, the pictures on the cover (front and back). Look through the pictures together and ask your child what they think the story might be about.

➤ 3. Talk about stories and events

As you read and when you've finished, sometimes ask questions about the story. '*What was your favourite bit? What do you think about that? What would you do?*' Get your child to ask you questions too. Don't overdo it though – otherwise you can lose the thread of the plot.

➤ 4. All join in

Start asking your child to join in with bits that are repeated in stories, e.g. '*Run run as fast as you can! You can't catch me I'm the gingerbread man!*'. Traditional stories, like The Gingerbread Man, are really good for this and children will love doing the voices!

➤ 5. Find your favourites and add to them

Children love to listen to their favourite books over and over again and to remember some parts by heart. That's fine as enjoyment and memory play a key part in learning to read. Add to their list of favourites by reading stories of all kinds, rhymes, poetry and information books too.

➤ 6. Retell stories

➤ Sometimes after you have shared a story, ask your child to retell it to you. Help by asking '*What happened first? What next? And then what?*' Can you remember what happens at the end?! Encourage them to use plenty of expression.



➤ 7. Read everywhere you go

Read on the move and show your child how you read words everywhere you go too. Point out words they might recognise, including signs and logos in the street or on labels.

➤ 8. Listen to and sing songs and rhymes

Singing lots of songs and nursery rhymes helps your child to hear the sounds in words and build up a bank of known favourites. Play with words and sounds and make up nonsense rhymes in songs or nursery rhymes they know. Encourage them to join in.

➤ 9. Remember when...

Compare events in stories or information books with things you've done together, so your child starts to make connections between these things and their own experiences: *'That's just like when we went to Thorpe Park. Do you remember? Dad was scared...'*

➤ Early reading skills

➤ 1. Talk about letters and sounds

If you draw attention to letters and sounds, your child will begin to notice them as well. Knowing the letter sounds is a very important first step in early phonics teaching so start talking about these at the earliest opportunity.

2. Signs that your child may be ready to begin learning early reading skills

There are no hard and fast rules about this but if your child can do these things then it may be that they are ready to begin learning early reading skills:

- listen to a story and retell bits of it
- recognise some letter sounds (like the first sound in their name)
- match some words (like Mum) when they see them in different places
- concentrate for 5-10 minutes.



Useful phonics apps/websites

Tripod Grip



- Meet the Alphablocks FREE
- Alphablocks letter fun FREE
- Teach your Monster to Read £4.99
- Mr Thorne Does Phonics: Letters an Sounds £1.99
- Mr Thorne's Phonic Safari £1.99
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk (initially Phase 1 and 2)
- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>
- http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/phonics-videos>
- <https://www.picknalls.staffs.sch.uk/our-learners/year-group-pages/nursery/scraps-phonics>
- <https://youtu.be/Emb2yvwAHtc> - to support learning sounds and letter names
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx> - Nursery Rhymes

