

# Nursery Phonics Parent Workshop



Tuesday 19th  
March 2024

# Aims

- To share how phonics is taught
- To develop parents' confidence in helping their children with phonics and reading
- To teach the basics of phonics and some useful phonics terms
- To outline the different stages in phonic development
- To show examples of activities and resources we use to teach phonics



What is phonics and  
how can I help my  
child at home?



Phonics is all about using ...

**skills** for  
reading and  
spelling

+


**knowledge**  
of the  
alphabet



Learning phonics will help your child  
to become a good reader and writer.



# Daily Phonics




3 times a week the children have 20 minute sessions of phonics.

Fast paced approach

Lessons encompass a range of games, songs and rhymes

We use the ELS planning document to support the teaching of phonics

There are 6 phonics phases which the children work through at their own pace



# Phase 1 phonics



## Preschool Phonics Phase 1.1 Environmental Sounds

### A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focus on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the first aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Environmental Sounds.

Listening to environmental sounds can be practised very easily through day-to-day activities and you don't need any special equipment - just your ears. At home, the doorbell rings, the dishwasher beeps and the letterbox flaps open and shut. Talk to your child about what you can hear. Let them know when there is a sound. Did they hear it too?

Children learn to tune their listening into the wider world around them.

Nurseries, preschools and childminders will take children on listening walks. The children are each given a beater or drumstick and they investigate the different sounds that are made when objects are hit, e.g. a wooden fence or a metal gate, a wall or a tree. The children are encouraged to listen very carefully to the differences in the sounds they hear.

You can start this part of phonics as soon as your child has an understanding of language and questions (from as early as 18 months old).

This aspect of phonics and the listening and hearing activities are very useful for identifying whether your child can hear a full range of sounds. Can they hear the same things you can hear? Can they hear things as clearly as you can? Speak to your GP or health visitor if you have any concerns about your child's hearing and they can arrange for a hearing test for them.

When you are out and about, listen to the different sounds that cars, vans, and lorries make. Listen out for trains, dogs, and sirens. Listen to the different bird songs and the snap of twigs in the woods. Talk to your child about what you can hear.

Sound bingo games are available to buy or download, where children listen to environmental or animal sounds and match them to their game board.



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Go

## Preschool Phonics Phase 1.2 Instrumental Sounds

### A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focuses on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the second aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Instrumental Sounds.

Children learn to tune their listening into musical sounds, through listening to music and playing with musical instruments. This aspect focuses on recognised musical instruments, rather than home-made instruments.

Have musical instruments at home for your children to play with, such as: drums, tambourines, maracas or recorders. Spend time playing music with them. Play inside/outside, play loudly/quietly and sing along to the music at the same time. Have fun exploring all the possibilities of playing music together.

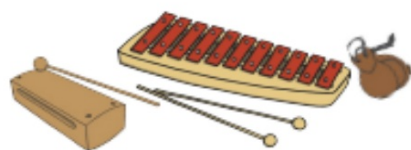
When you are out and about, listen to the different music played in shops, watch buskers play and visit music shops to show your child the instruments. You could even attend concerts and shows at your local theatre; there are often performances - especially for preschool children.

Sound bingo games are available to buy or download, where children listen to instrumental sounds and match them to images on their game board.

You can start this part of phonics as soon as your baby is born. Play music of different styles and genres at home or during car journeys, music that reflects moods, classical music, world music, modern music - make music a part of your life.

Nurseries, preschools and childminders will have musical instruments available for the children to play with and explore. Children usually take part in group sessions led by adults where the children are encouraged to play an instrument to a regular beat. They will play games where they match the sound to instruments.

This aspect of phonics is brilliant for growing an appreciation for music of all kinds - a skill for life.



The most important thing you can do is make time to listen to your child. Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones and really listen to them!



# Preschool Phonics Phase 1.3 Body Percussion

## A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focuses on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the third aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Body Percussion

Children learn to use their bodies to create sounds. This aspect focuses on making sounds with your body rather than your voice by clapping, stomping, patting, rubbing and clicking fingers.

At nurseries, preschools and childminders, the children will usually take part in group sessions led by adults, where the children sing songs involving body percussion and are encouraged to copy rhythmic patterns, such as: clap, clap, stamp, thigh pat.

This aspect of phonics is also great for developing coordination of the whole body. Encourage cross body movements, such as using your right hand to pat your left thigh and your left hand to pat your right shoulder.

Sing well-known nursery rhymes together, such as, 'Wind the Bobbin Up' and 'If You're Happy and You Know It'. As a nice way to begin, use your hands to clap to the rhythm.

Play children's songs in the car that involve actions and clapping.

With your child, clap, pat and stamp to music, encouraging them to keep to a regular beat. Make up repeating patterns of movements to the music.





## Preschool Phonics Phase 1.4 Rhythm and Rhyme

### A Guide for Parents

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This guide introduces the fourth aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Rhythm and Rhyme.

Children learn to hear patterns in speech. They learn to tune into words that may start with different sounds but end with the same sounds. They are pleasing to the ear and fun to repeat.

You can start when your child is very young, by reading illustrated rhyming stories with your child. Very young children will respond to the pattern of speech, while older preschoolers will learn to anticipate the next rhyming word. Try to make it a cosy 1-1 time with no distractions.

Make rhyming a part of your everyday life. If a drink is spilt, say, "Spillage in the village," for instance, or when it's time to go out, hold up shoes and say, "Whose shoes?". Sing songs and nursery rhymes with your child (play them in the car when you are out and about).

At nurseries, preschools and childminders, the children will usually sit for story times, where they are encouraged to take part and predict the next rhyming words in stories they have heard before and can recall. They may also play rhyming word bingo and 'odd one out' games, where they identify the object that doesn't rhyme.

Visit your local library and look for songs and rhymes, then take time to read some in the library and choose some to take home too.

This aspect of phonics is also great for developing all-round speaking and listening skills. There are thousands of rhyming stories for your children to enjoy.



# Preschool Phonics Phase 1.5 Alliteration

## A Guide for Parents

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This guide introduces the fifth aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Alliteration.

Before your child can learn individual letter sounds, they will learn to hear letter sounds in speech. They learn to tune into words that may start with the same sounds but end with different sounds. These 'initial sounds' are more difficult to tune into, compared to rhyming words, but when children get the hang of it, there is lots of fun to be had finding real words and making up nonsense words.

Some sounds we say are made up of two letters, e.g. the 'sh' sound in 'shoe'. Use the 'sh' sound rather than 's' and 'h' when playing with your child. This is the same for the 'ch' and 'th' sounds too. Later, in Phase 2 phonics, your child will learn these as 'digraphs'.

At nurseries, preschools and childminders, the children will usually play small group games with an adult, focusing on certain initial sounds. Some settings may have a sound of the week, while others may follow sounds related to specific interests of the children.

When you start thinking about initial sounds in words with your child, try to think of how the letter sounds when you say it in the word. For example, the word 'pea' has a very short 'p' sound not a 'p-uh' sound.

In everyday life, repeat the initial sound in the names of objects your child has been asked to find. E.g. "Can you find your g-g-g-gloves?" Encourage your child to say the sounds back to you.

Play 'I spy' with letter sounds (rather than letter names).

This aspect brings an introduction to letters and the alphabet, using only listening skills. When your child has mastered hearing the individual phonic sounds, you will be able to introduce Phase 2 phonics and the written letters.



# Preschool Phonics Phase 1.6 Voice Sounds

## A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focuses on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the sixth aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Voice Sounds.

The previous aspects of Phase 1 phonics have focused on listening skills. Of course, children are always encouraged to use their language by singing, repeating, rhyming and speaking, but it is this aspect that focuses on making specific sounds with your voice.

Rather than making specific letter sounds, first, involve your child in using their voice to make sounds that copy the environmental sounds they hear. Try chugging trains, car sounds, ticking clocks, animal sounds, plops and whooshes.

Have a hand-held mirror, or one mounted at your child's height. You may even have mirrored wardrobes that you can stand in front of so they can see their faces as they make the sounds.

If your child is having difficulty making a variety of voice sounds, their speech is not clear, or if the sounds your child is making are distinctly different from the sound they think they are making, speak to your Health Visitor or your child's Key Person in their childcare setting. They will be able to advise you of the specific needs for your child and whether to recommend a course of speech and language therapy.

Next, try the sounds we make that are responses to things, rather than words, such as, 'ooh' or 'ahh'. Join in together making these sounds.

Use voice sounds in everyday life. Together, copy the sounds you hear when you are out and about.

At nurseries, preschools and childminders, the children will usually develop voice sounds during every session, through play. Small world train sets and car garages, doll's house play set-ups, and role-playing set-ups all encourage children to add their own sound effects. Children are also encouraged to speak and use their voices when adults and children are speaking together 1-1 or in small groups.



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to S

## Preschool Phonics Phase 1.7 Oral Blending and Segmenting

### A Guide for Parents

Preschool and nursery phonics focus on pre-reading skills. These are speaking and listening skills, being able to distinguish the sounds they hear, patterns of speech, and sounds of speech. Phase 1 of the phonics programme is split into seven aspects; each builds on the previous aspect.

This guide introduces the seventh and final aspect of Phase 1 Phonics: Oral Blending and Segmenting

Simply put, children learn to break up spoken words into syllables. This builds on all of the previous Phase 1 aspects: recognising rhythm, rhyming, hearing initial sounds and making voice sounds.

These segmenting and blending skills are really easy to develop through everyday life. Break the words you say up into distinct syllables. Say "Dinn-er time" or "Ti-dy up time," for instance. When your child has mastered this, break down some words further, e.g. "Your jumper is r-e-d." or "Can you put you sh-oes in the b-o-x?" Always remember to use the letter sounds rather than the letter names.

Once your child has mastered all seven aspects of Phase 1 phonics, they will be ready to begin Phase 2, where they will begin to learn written letters, their sounds and to read and spell three-letter words. There is no rush to complete Phase 1 - some children will be five and in full-time school before all of these skills are mastered. These skills form the basis for your child's reading and writing skills - the stronger their skills in this aspect of the phonics programme, the easier they will find the next phases.

The first skill your child will need to learn is to hear the syllables in words. You can help your child by clapping or stamping to the rhythm of the spoken words - one clap per syllable.

Pretend to be a robot!

At nurseries and preschools and with childminders, the children will usually develop and practise this through their own play and in the everyday language practitioners use. They may also carry out small-group activities and will always be supported and encouraged by adults who are knowledgeable about your child's development.



## Phase 2 Phonics

Phonic terms your child will learn at school.

- Phoneme
- Grapheme
- Blending
- Segmenting
- Digraph
- Trigraph
- Phoneme frame
- Sound button
- Harder to read words
- CVC word



# Glossary

- **Phonemes:** The smallest units of sound that are found within a word
- **Grapheme:** The spelling of the sound e.g. th
- **Digraph:** Two letters that make one sound when read
- **Trigraphs:** Three letters that make one sound
- **CVC:** Stands for consonant, vowel, consonant.
- **Segmenting** is breaking up a word into its sounds.
- **Blending:** Putting the sounds together to read a word
- **Harder to read words:** Words that cannot easily be decode



# Phonics Words

Your children will learn to use the term:

## Blending

- Children need to be able to **hear** the separate sounds in a word and then blend them together to **say** the whole word .

## Segmenting

- Children need to be able to **hear** a whole word and **say** every sound that they **hear**



Blending and segmenting  
/b/ /e/ /d/ = bed

/t/ /i/ /n/ = tin

Mug = /m/ /u/ /g/

Cat = /c/ /a/ /t/





## How can I help at home?

### Oral blending: the robot game

Children need to practise hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging them together to make a word.

For example, you say 'b-u-s', and your child says 'bus'.



## Phase 2: Learning phonemes to read and write simple words



- Children will learn their first 19 phonemes:

**Set 1:** s a t p    **Set 2:** i n m d

**Set 3:** g o c k    **Set 4:** ck (as in duck) e u r

**Set 5:** h b l f    ff (as in puff) ll (as in hill)  
ss (as in hiss)

- They will use these phonemes to read and spell simple "consonant-vowel-consonant" (CVC) words:

sat, tap, dig, duck, rug, puff, hill, hiss

All these words contain 3 phonemes.

**DO NOT TEACH LETTER NAMES YET!**  
**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**





## Pronunciation of Phase 2 sounds.



Home | Microsoft 365 | Email - Michelle Foulkes - O | SECRET READER - Google Sc | Get Set 4 PE - Lesson Plan | Early Years | Belgrave Acad

belgraveacademy.org.uk/earlyyears

We use the **Development Matters** document (Revised July 2021) and the **Birth to Five Matters** document to plan purposeful play opportunities which create the enabling environment necessary for the children to display the Characteristics of Effective Learning.

We teach phonics and reading through the Essential Letters and Sounds programme.

**ELS**  
Phase 2 sounds  
00:44

**ELS**  
Phase 3 sounds  
01:02

OTHER USEFUL PHONICS LINKS  
ICT GAMES PHONICS BLOOM PHONICS PLAY TOP MARKS

Type here to search | 9°C Cloudy | 10:25 12/03/2024



# Phonics Words

Your children will learn to use the term:

**phoneme**

Phonemes are sounds that can be heard in words

e.g. c-a-t



# Phonics Words

Your children will learn to use  
the term:

**grapheme**

This is how a phoneme  
is written down -  
what we can see



# Phonics Words

Your children will learn to use the term:

## Digraph / double grapheme

This means that the phoneme comprises of two letters

e.g. ll, ff, ck, ss



# Phonics words

Phoneme frame and  
sound buttons

c	a	t
---	---	---

•                    •                    •



f	i	sh
---	---	----

•                    •                    —



# Phoneme frames activity

log      duck

fill





# Answers

l	o	g
---	---	---

.

.

.

d	u	ck
---	---	----

.

.

—

f	i	ll
---	---	----

.

.

—



# Harder to Read Words



There are many words that **cannot** be blended or segmented because they are irregular.

the

was

said

you

some



# Letter Formation

Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2
s	a	t	p	d	g	d	o
Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2
i	n	e	m	c	k	c	u
Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2 Phonemes  Suitable for children starting school, or who have just joined reception class			
r	h	b	f				
Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2	Phase 2				
ff	l	ll	ss				



Weekly homework to support letter formation of the sound of the week.

Don't forget...

Learning to read  
should be fun for  
both children and  
parents.





**Any Questions?**

**Most of all.. Enjoy  
reading and writing with  
your children!**



