



# Early Reading Skills



## What can I do to support my child?

- The most important thing you can do to support your child's early reading development is to share a book with your child every day.



- Remember to borrow a book from nursery each week to read with your child.
- Look at the cover, the illustrations, the text, the spine of the book, the title, the author. We talk to the children about the parts of the book and we use the words you see here.
- Make reading fun. Encourage them to look at books by showing that you value this special time.
- Join the local library. There are so many books to choose from!
- Let your child see you reading. This can be a newspaper, magazine, anything you like. This is a powerful message to send to your child so take a break and have a read!



- Read something with your child. It doesn't need to be a book! The secret is to find something that your child really wants to read - comics, magazines, football programmes, newspapers, internet, texts, e-mails, catalogues etc.

## What do we teach at nursery?

- We teach children the skills that underpin later phonics work.
- We encourage children to listen very carefully to sounds in the environment.
- We offer opportunities for them to listen to the sounds that they can make with their bodies, such as clapping and stamping.
- We listen to the sounds made by instruments and by their voices.
- We learn about sounds that are the same and about rhyming words.
- Above all, we encourage children to learn to love books, stories and rhymes and to play with language.

## Phonics

### What is 'Phonics'?

- Phonics is the relationship between the sounds of letters or groups of letters and their written form.

### Why do we teach phonics?

- It is important to teach children the skills that help them to read, spell and write. Phonics teaches those skills.

### How is phonics taught?

- Phonics is taught in a very structured order of skills that enables children to learn how to work out what words or groups of letters mean and to spell words using these skills.

## How you can help at home?

This leaflet aims to give you some ideas that will help you to share early reading activities at home.

## Phonics



Beginning to break up words is the start of phonics work that your child will do in Reception. Start stressing the sounds in words by breaking words up, for example... 'Pass the j-a-m.' 'Where's the b-a-g?' 'Look at the d-o-g.' 'Watch the c-a-t.' You can start to talk about the sounds in your child's name. Look at the shape of the letters, especially the initial letter. Talk about the names of other members of the family, too.

## Saying the sounds



It is important that the sounds are made correctly so that your child hears them and copies them accurately. If you would like any information about how we make each sound please ask a member of staff. If your child starts to show a real interest in wanting to read words before starting school then you could introduce the first few letter sounds - s/a/t/p/i/n. Come and talk to us and we can offer you some support with this.

## Rhyming books



There are lots of rhyming books for young children - The Gruffalo, Giraffes Can't Dance, Dear Zoo, Hairy Maclary or Duck in a Truck.

Nursery rhymes and great for rhyming too and you can sing them even if you don't have a book with you!

When you read to your child, it gives you the chance to become a performer! Exaggerate the emotions, pretend to be horrified, pretend to cry or laugh.

Encourage your child to join in.

When the story has been read a few times, pause before the rhyming word to allow your child to fill the gap. Don't

## Singing together



Sing some songs you remember from your childhood and clap or tap along together.

Use clapping, tapping, stamping, clicking fingers, as well as vocal sounds to accompany songs and rhymes.

We sing lots of songs and rhymes at nursery, so you might learn some new ones - ask your child to teach them to you!

## Body sounds



Use clapping, tapping, stamping, clicking fingers, as well as vocal sounds to accompany songs and rhymes.

## Toy sounds



When your child is playing with their toys encourage them to make the sounds, such as 'brmmm' as the car moves along and 'moo' when playing with a toy cow. Farm animals, train sets and vehicles are great for this.

Help your child to notice these sounds around and about. Point out the sound that cars, trucks and fire engines make in the street. Practices making these noises then use them when playing together.



## Alliteration (Repeated sounds)

Make up your own silly sentences that repeat the same sound such as; 'Baby Billy blows bubbles', or 'Chatty chimps chew chips' The sillier, the better!

This can be tricky, especially at first. Make sure you offer lots of praise even if the child doesn't manage the alliteration. Research has shown that reading improves if children are praised and believe they are doing well!

## Beating out a rhythm

Look in your kitchen cupboards and find old or unused kitchen utensils (such as wooden or metal spoons) and pots and pans. Use the utensils to bang the pans.



Talk about the sounds, they make. Drum along to songs and rhymes.

Tap out a beat and ask your child to tap out the same beat or continue it.

Tap out the pattern of your child's name, e.g.

Is—a—belle.

Encourage your child to tap it back or tap out the pattern of a brother or sister's name.

## Voice play

Encourage your child to use their voice to make a wide range of sounds. For example, a trip to the park could offer plenty of opportunities for making sounds. In the park: Going up a slide- clunk, clunk, clunk

Coming down a slide - whoosh On a roundabout - wheee Digging in the sand - ch ch ch Bouncing a ball - boing, boing Going on a train: The doors opening - schush The train moving- chuch-e-cut, chuch-e-cut The horn - der der Slowing down- schhhhhh (long sound)

### Useful websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home>

[www.lovelybooks.co.uk/aboutlovelybooks](http://www.lovelybooks.co.uk/aboutlovelybooks)