



Phase 1 phonics guidance for Nursery parents

Aspect 1 – Environmental Sounds

Children begin to demonstrate an awareness of sounds within the environment around them and develop their listening skills.

When outside and around the home, draw children's attentions to the sounds you hear eg. doorbell ringing or dishwasher beeping. If you have concerns about your child's hearing, speak to your GP or health visitor to arrange a hearing test.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1/welcome-to-the-zoo>

Aspect 3 – Body Percussion

Children experiment and learn how to use their bodies to create different types of sounds.

When singing nursery rhymes together, use your hands and feet to clap, tap or stamp the rhythm. Play games such as 'copycat' where you sequence a simple set of sounds for the children to copy eg. clap, tap, clap.

Aspect 5 – Alliteration

Children begin to identify the beginning sound within simple words and identify sets of words with the starting with the same sound eg. cow, cake, cat and cap.

Remember to think about the sound at the beginning of the word and not just naming the letter. 'I spy' is a great game to play to encourage children to find something with a particular letter sound.

Aspect 7 – Oral Blending and Segmenting

Children begin to hear beginning, middle and ends sounds within one syllable words.

Begin by looking at CVC words (consonant-vowel-consonant) which have 3 letters that each make their own sound such as hat, tap, sit or pen. Split the words up into their individual sounds eg. h-a-t, this is segmenting. Blending is where you put the sounds back together to say the word as a whole.

Phonics in Nursery focuses on the development of children's pre-reading skills. We support children to develop their speaking and listening skills and their ability to tune into sounds around them. In Nursery, our phonics programme is split into seven aspects. Below you will find further information about each aspect and what you can do to support your child at home.

Aspect 2 – Instrumental Sounds

Children begin to experiment with sounds made by various instruments and identify the similarities and differences.

Making your own set of instruments for home is always a fun activity. You can find some ideas by following this link -

<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/musical-instruments>

Aspect 4 – Rhythm and Rhyme

Children begin to join in with rhymes, repeated language and patterns.

Singing and learning nursery rhymes and sharing stories with rhyming patterns is fundamental to children's language development. Draw their attention to words which rhyme and create rhyming strings together for fun – cat, mat, hat, sat.

Try playing eye spy with a twist: I spy with my little eye, something that rhymes with ...

Aspect 6 – Voice Sounds

Children learn to create a range of mouth movements to produce different voice sounds.

Experiment with a range of voice sounds at home such as – shhhhh, whee, moo, ohhh, sss, zzz and tick tock. Having a mirror available so that children can begin to identify the shapes their mouths are making.