Making Phonics Fun!

Teaching Phonics in the Early Years Foundation Stage
What is Phonics?

Phonics is a tool to enable children to begin to read, write and understand simple sentences.

We teach children the phoneme (sound) and grapheme (letter) for each letter of the alphabet.

Phonics teaches how to sound out, segment and blend these sounds in order to read and write words.
Letters and Sounds

Letters and sounds is a 6 phase teaching programme designed to teach children how the alphabet works for reading and spelling.

• Nursery – Phase 1

• Reception - Phase 2/3 onwards

We teach phonics through discreet daily sessions and through play in the classroom and outdoor environment.
Nursery - Phase 1

- Aspect 1: General sound discrimination – environmental sounds
- Aspect 2: General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds
- Aspect 3: General sound discrimination – body percussion
- Aspect 4: Rhythm and rhyme
- Aspect 5: Alliteration
- Aspect 6: Voice sounds
- Aspect 7: Oral blending and segmenting
Aspect 1 General sound discrimination
Environmental sounds

- This is where we help your child to develop listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.

What sounds can you hear outside?
Aspect 2 General sound discrimination
Instrumental sounds

• This is where we help the children to develop awareness of sounds made with instruments and noise makers

• E.g. adjusting the volumes of sounds
• Play guess the instrument
Aspect 3 General Sound discrimination
Body percussion

• This aspect helps children to develop an awareness of sounds and rhythm.

• We teach this phase 1 aspect by singing songs and action rhymes.
Aspect 4
Rhythm and Rhyme

• This aspect looks at developing children’s awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech such as joining in repetitive phrases like;

• ‘run, run as fast as you can, you can’t catch me I’m the gingerbread man’.
Aspect 5
Alliteration

• This aspect helps children to understand alliteration.
• We teach children this aspect through word play with initial sounds, e.g.

‘David’s dangerous dinosaur
Milesh’s marvellous magic mittens’
Aspect 6
Voice sounds

• This aspect teaches children how to make sounds with their voices, e.g.

  Wheeeeee!
  Boing, boing
  Shhhhhh
  Tick tock, tick tock
Aspect 7
Oral blending and Segmenting

• This aspect helps children to oral blend and segment sounds in words.
• We model this throughout the day like;

  It’s time to get your coat
  Touch your toes
  Hang your coat on your peg
By the end of Nursery....

- Distinguish between a range of different sounds.
- Understand and use rhythm, rhyme and alliteration.
- Match spoken sounds to letters.
- Segment simple words orally.
- Talk about the different phonemes that make up words.
Reception – Phase 2

• Children entering Phase Two will have experienced a wealth of listening activities, including songs, stories and rhymes. They will be able to distinguish between speech sounds and many will be able to blend and segment words orally.

• The purpose of this phase is to teach at least 19 letters, and move children on from oral blending and segmentation to blending and segmenting with letters. By the end of the phase many children should be able to read some VC and CVC words and to spell them.
Video – Articulation of letter sounds

https://youtu.be/BqhXUW_v-1s
Example Activity

Sound lotto

Skills needed:
• Understanding of letter sounds (phonemes)
• Knowledge of how letters look (graphemes)
• How to segment the sounds in words
• Hearing and blending the sounds in words
• Comprehension of vocabulary
Phonics is everywhere, not just in the classroom!
By the end of Reception

• Read and understand simple sentences.
• Use phonic knowledge to decode regular (go) words and read them aloud accurately.
• Read some common irregular (tricky) words.
• Demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.
• Use phonic knowledge to write words in ways that match their spoken sounds.
• Write simple sentences that can be read by themselves and others.
How you can help your child at home...

- Read to your child – stories, library books, signs and labels, anything!
- Talk about the letter sounds in words
- Play word/sound games (examples on the handout)
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes
- Play with words – silly sentences
- Show them that you love reading and writing too!
Equipment you can use at home.

- Whiteboard
- Magnetic letters
- Foam letters
- Phonics games
- School high frequency word cards
I can write my name.
Let’s make phonics fun!

- No pressure
- Learning through play
- Enjoyment
- Fun!
Thank you for listening!