

Tips and Definitions

Talk to children about Letters and Sounds - "These are letters. A letter can make a sound. Sometimes letters are stuck together and they make a new sound. Letters together can make words. If we can read those words we can read; labels, signs, notes, comics, books and lots of other things all around us."

Tricky / useful words

Useful words are words that cannot be 'sounded-out' but need to be learned by heart. They don't fit into the usual spelling patterns. Examples of these words are below. In order to read simple sentences, it is necessary for children to know some of these tricky words. It should be noted that, when teaching these words, it is important to always start with sounds already known in the word, then focus on the

High frequency Words

High frequency (common) are words that recur frequently in much of the written material young children read and that they need when they write.

Websites

Interactive websites at home to support your child's learning:

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

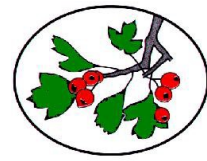
www.spellingplay.co.uk

www.educationcity.co.uk

www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>



The Hawthorns Primary School

Phonics information for parents

Introduction

Phonics is about matching sounds to letters.



Letters and Sounds is a fun and interactive way to support children in learning how to read and write. For the children to learn their sounds we use a programme called *Letters and Sounds*.

The alphabet contains only 26 letters. Spoken English uses about 42 sounds (phonemes). These phonemes are represented by letters (graphemes). In other words, a sound can be represented by a letter (e.g. 's' or 'h') or a group of letters (e.g. 'th' or 'ear')

Once children begin learning sounds, they are used quickly to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds. For this reason, the first six letters that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. These can immediately be used to make a number of words such as 'sat', 'pin', 'pat', 'tap', 'nap'

'As a parent, your involvement in supporting your child's learning will be a vital factor in determining their success in learning to read.'

- Hannah Widdison

Blending - for reading



To learn to read well children must be able to smoothly blend sounds together. Blending sounds fluidly helps to improve fluency when reading. Blending is more difficult to do with longer words so learning how to blend accurately from an early age is imperative.

Showing your child how to blend is important. Model how to 'push' sounds smoothly together without stopping at each individual sound. E.g. c-a-t = cat / f-i-sh = fish

It is also recommended to talk to your child about what blending is so they understand what they are trying to achieve.

Segmenting - for spelling



Segmenting is a skill used in spelling. In order to spell the word cat, it is necessary to segment the word into its constituent sounds; c - a - t.

Children will often understand segmenting as 'chopping' a word. Before writing a word young children need time to think about it, say the word several times, 'chop' the word and then write it. Once children have written the same word several times they won't need to use these four steps as frequently.

The phases

Letters and Sounds is split into 5 phases. Below is an overview of what is included in each phase.

Phase One (Pre-school and Reception onwards)

The aim of this phase is to foster children's speaking and listening skills as preparation for learning to read with phonics. Parents can play a vital role in helping their children develop these skills, by encouraging their children to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do. Please encourage children to listen to and learn nursery rhymes, poems and songs, spotting rhymes and rhythms in the things you share.

Phase Two - Four

Phase Two is when systematic, high quality phonic work begins. During Phase Two to Four, children learn:

- *How to represent each of the 42 sounds by a letter or sequence of letters.
- *How to blend sounds together for reading and how to segment (split) words for spelling.
- *Letter names
- *How to read and spell some high frequency 'tuseful' words containing sounds not yet learnt (e.g. they, my, her, you).

The Letters and Sounds Programme progresses from the simple to the more complex aspects of phonics at a pace that is suitable for the children who are learning.

Phase Five

Children learn new ways of representing the sounds and practise blending for reading and segmenting for spelling.