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Phonics



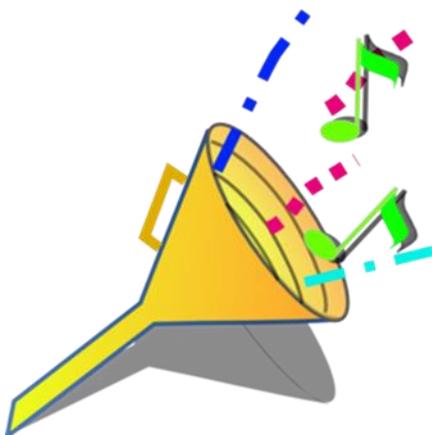
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Phonics is all around us and we're using it everyday!

Many of you will already be doing these phonic activities and practising your child's phonic skills without even thinking about it!

The most important thing is to make learning phonics FUN!

Make time to listen to your child talking: as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times, bedtimes - any time! Children need to hear adults modelling clear and fluent speech to learn themselves.



Listen! Children need to be able to distinguish between different sounds. Point out sounds that can be seen but not heard. Can children guess what the sound is? E.g. birds singing, an aeroplane or helicopter in the sky, different sirens etc.

Read stories together: Children learn a huge amount from being read to. Enjoy stories together. Talk about what is happening. Point at the words as you read. Show your child how you can sound out simple 3 letter words and blend the sounds to read (for example h-a-t, hat). Don't forget comics and non-fiction are great too!



Sounding out: This is one of the best ways to learn to read. As soon as your child has learned the first four sounds, they can start to read.

Using phoneme cards can be a helpful way to introduce the sounds. Show a card to your child and say the sound. Ask your child to say it as well. This will help to build a link between a letter and its associated sound.

Using the sounds to read (blending):

You can teach your child to 'push' (or blend) the sounds together to make words by saying each of the sounds in the word and then pushing them together to say the word.

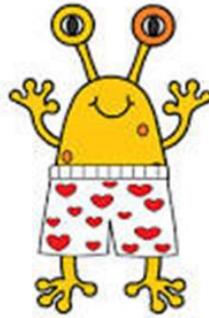


Using the sounds to write (segmenting):

Encourage your child to use their new-found knowledge of sounds to begin to spell, by working out the individual sounds in a word and matching these sounds to the letters.

Say a word and ask your child to break into its individual sounds. For example: pig, p i g.

Alien words!: Once your child has mastered the different sounds challenge them with an 'alien word' like nam, pog, spim etc to ensure that they are really secure with the knowledge of those sounds.

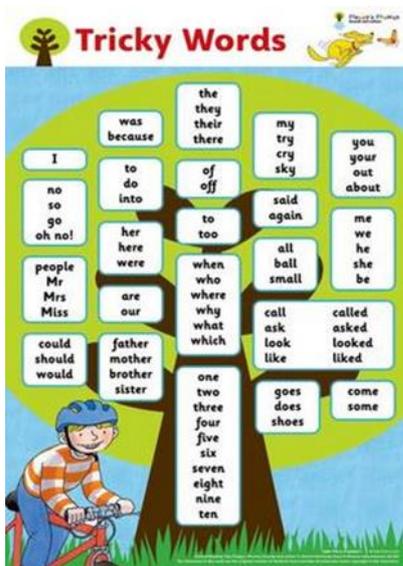


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s	t	p	n	m	a	e	i	o
g	d	ck	r	h	u	ai	ee	igh
b	f	l	j	v	oa	oo	oo	ar
w	x	y	z	qu	or	ur	ow	oi
ch	sh	th	th	ng	ear	air	ure	er

44 Sounds: There are 44 phonemes (sounds) which need to be learnt. However, for some phonemes there is more than one spelling of the phoneme e.g. ai as in chain, ay as in play and a_e as in plane!

Jolly Phonics: Uses an action for each individual sound to help children remember. It is often great to use when beginning to sound out words for reading and writing.



Tricky Words:

Not all words can be sounded out, such as 'said'. Children need to learn to recognise these words by sight and to spell them from memory. These are often taught by encouraging children to identify the tricky part of the word which can't be sounded out e.g. in said it is the 'ai' that is the tricky part.



Scary big words!:

Phoneme - a single sound e.g. a, b, c

Grapheme - a letter or letters that represent a sound in a word e.g. l **ea** f

Digraph - a combination of 2 letters representing 1 sound e.g. ee

Trigraph - a combination of 3 letters representing 1 sound e.g. air

Alliteration - the repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of each or most of the words in a sentence e.g. seven silly sausages....

Useful Websites

www.mrthorne.com

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/words_and_pictures/phonics/

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/fun-ideas/>



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It takes a Whole Community to Educate a Child