



## How to help your child develop their phonics skills and letter recognition

### Phonic Skills

Children need to be able to blend - put sounds together to make words

Some children come to school already able to do this, but most find it very difficult. It takes lots and lots of practice.

Even before your child knows what sounds are made by different letter shapes, you can play games to develop their blending skills:

Simon Says

Robot voice (show CVC picture cards)

Objects on table - point to what I'm saying (robot voice)

The Letters and Sounds scheme that we use in school has been designed so that as soon as children have learned the first set of sounds, they can begin to read simple words.

### Reading development

- Child can't hear words when sounded out
- Child can hear word if adult sounds out (often too slow when sounding out themselves)
- Child can sound word out independently
- Blending has become so fast and automatic that a child looks at a word and says it straight away. They "know" what it says

### Helping your child:

- First teach your child the letter sound, then when they are confident teach them the letter name
- Only make pure sounds, no "uh" on the end (example - sounding out "but")

### Letter recognition

Children need to know what sounds are made by the different letter shapes. We teach children to recognise the 26 letters of the alphabet, but also some digraphs (2 letters/1 sound eg "ch" and "ee")

Young children learn best when they are active and using all their senses. To help children remember the sound that is usually made by each letter shape we tell them a short phrase from the Letters and Sound scheme, e.g. when teaching the letter 'm' we say 'down Maisy and over the mountain.'