

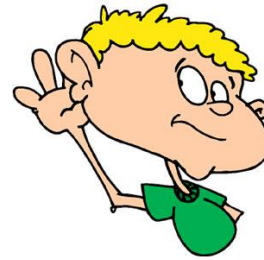
## Parent Guide to Phase 1 Phonics

### What is Phonics?

When your child starts school, they will be taught Phonics. This is teaching your child how to read, write and spell which are vital skills for lifelong learning in Literacy.

You may hear your child talk about phonics using words like 'letters' and 'sounds'.

Before we can teach any Phase 2 sounds, we ensure children have the Phase 1 skills needed to make good progress.



### Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening are the first skills needed before beginning to learn to read and write. Encouraging lots of talk at home as part of everyday life will support your child's vocabulary and communication skills. Explain things you are doing, encourage question asking and wait for your child's response.

Reading to your child is vital. A child who is read to five times a day has a vocabulary of 1.4 million words!

### Phase 1

Phase 1 is the first Phase that is taught and this focusses on developing children's speaking, listening and awareness of sounds. During this phase your child will be taught to distinguish between different sounds in the environment. They will also learn about rhyme, alliteration, oral blending and oral segmenting.

Oral blending is hearing sounds and being able to merge them together to make words.

Oral segmenting is hearing a word and breaking it down into sounds.

These skills are needed before children can blend to read and segment for writing.



# Phonics

These are ideas for activities for each aspect within Phase 1. They do not need to be completed in an order-dip in and out of each as you see fit! Make sure you use the letter sounds rather than names. To help with pronunciation of sounds you can use Meet the Alphablocks app or Phonics UK app. You can also find some good interactive games on Phonics Play <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>



### Aspect 1- Environment sounds

- Go on a sound walk- What are the sounds you can hear around you?
- Sound shakers- fill bottles with noisy materials e.g. rice, pasta, pebbles, marbles, shells, coins. Ask your child to shake them and describe the sounds they make.

### Aspect 2- Instrument Sounds

- Use things around the house like pots and pans and spoons. Can you experiment with making the loudest sound you can? What about the quietest? Tap out simple rhythms and encourage your child to repeat it back.
- If you see or hear instruments being played, can you ask your child to imitate the instrument with their voice?

### Aspect 3-Body Percussion

- When singing songs, encourage your child to use their body to create actions e.g. stamping feet, clapping, patting knees etc.
- Pass the sound- Produce a body percussion sound such as clap, stomp, clap. Ask your child to pass the sound back to you. How long can you keep it up without the sound changing e.g. getting faster/slower.

### Aspect 4-Rhythm and Rhyme

- Share rhyming books such as Oi Frog! or Shark in the Park- Encourage your child to join in as much as possible. Try pausing before the rhyming word and see if your child can fill in the gap.
- Play rhyming words- I know a word that rhymes with cat, you need to put one on your head and the word is...hat. Make up silly rhymes for your child to join in.

### Aspect 5- Alliteration

- Make some aliens with silly names. Their names all have to start with the same letter e.g. Mig mog mully mo or Fo fi fandle fee.
- Create sound boxes of objects that start with the same letter e.g. sock, snake, sausages



### Aspect 6-Voice Sounds

- Encourage your child to make different sounds with their voice in different situations e.g. At the park, going up the stairs- clunk, clunk, clunk- going down the slide- wheeeee!
- Add sounds to stories using your voice e.g. We're going on a Bear Hunt or The Three Little Pigs.

### Aspect 7- Oral Blending and Segmenting

- Robot Talking- When giving instructions begin to split words up into sounds e.g. Sit d-ow-n. Pick up the p-i-g.
- Provide objects for your child to sound-talk e.g. At dinner ask your child what they drink out of. Encourage them to split the word cup into sounds, c-u-p.

