

Children: Little Doves News 2020



- Get into the rhythm of language: bounce your child on your knee to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme; march or clap to a chant or poem.
- Help your child move to the rhythm of a song or rhyme.
- Read or say poems, songs, nursery songs and rhyming stories as often as you can. Try to use gestures, tap regular beats and pause to emphasise the rhythm of the piece.
- Add percussion to mark the beats using your hands, feet or instruments. Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or 'bip bop boo, who are you?'



Ways to support your children at home: voice sounds.

- Repeat your infant's vocalisations.
- Make fun noises and nonsense words.
- Say words in different ways (fast, slowly, high, low, using a funny voice)
- 'Sing' known songs using only sounds (for example, 'la, la, la') and ask your child to guess the song.
- Vary your tempo and pitch when reading stories.



Ways to support your children at home: oral blending and segmenting.

This is all oral (spoken). Your child will not be expected to match the letter to the sound at this stage. The emphasis is on helping children to hear the separate sounds in words and to create spoken sounds.

Oral blending and segmenting is a later skill that will be important when the time comes for your child to read and write. Being able to hear the separate sounds within a word and then blend them together to understand that word is really important.

Blending is a vital skill for reading. The separate sounds (**phonemes**) of the word are spoken aloud, in order, all through the word and are then merged together into the whole word. This merging is called **blending**. For example, the adult would say

c-a-t = cat.

Segmenting is a vital skill for spelling. The whole word is spoken aloud, then broken up into its separate sounds (**phonemes**) in order, all through the word. For example, the adult would say

cat = c-a-t.

Notes

As your child starts their early years education, they will be taught phonics: the journey of learning to read, write and spell. These vital skills are the beginning of their lifelong learning journey in literacy. Phonics, which may also be referred to as 'Letters and Sounds', is the process of children learning to read and write. 📖✏️

Phonics is taught through the document 'letters and sounds' which is split into 6 phases. Phase 1 is the first phase that will be taught to children at nursery; this phase focuses on developing children's speaking, listening and awareness of sound. Developing these skills creates foundations for when children begin to learn their letters and sounds in later phases. During this phase, your child will begin to distinguish between different sounds within their environment and may begin to show an awareness of rhyme and alliteration. 🎵💡💬

Phase 1 Phonics continues throughout all the phases of Phonics. In this ongoing phase, your child will be learning to:

- 🎵 Have fun with sounds
- 💡 listen carefully
- 💬 develop their vocabulary
- 🗨️ talk confidently
- 👂 tune into sounds
- 💡 listen and remember sounds
- 💬 talk about sounds
- 🧠 understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds



Phase 1 consists of seven interlinking parts:

-  environmental sounds
-  instrumental sounds
-  body percussion
-   rhyme
-    alliteration
-   voice sounds
-   oral blending and segmenting

You can help your child with each of these by trying some of the activities included with the photos. Remember that all these activities should be fun and interactive. Give your child lots of encouragement and cuddles as you play together. Smiles and praise will help develop a sense of achievement and build confidence. 🌟