

# ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PHONICS IN NURSERY

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language. Phase One activities concentrate on developing children's speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting.

## ASPECT 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDS

- To develop listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment
- To develop vocabulary and the ability to recall the differences between sounds.
- To Make up simple sentences and talk in greater detail about sounds.

## ASPECT 2 - INSTRUMENTAL SOUNDS

- To experience and develop an awareness of sounds made with instruments and noise makers.
- To listen to appreciate the noise made with different instruments.
- To use a wide vocabulary to talk about the sounds instruments make.

## ASPECT 3 - BODY PERCUSSION

- To develop awareness of sounds and rhythms.
- To distinguish between sounds and remember the pattern of sounds.
- To talk about the sounds we make with our bodies and what the sounds mean.

## ASPECT 4 - RHYTHM AND RHYME

- To experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech.
- To increase awareness of words that rhyme and to develop knowledge about rhyme.
- To talk about words that rhyme and to produce rhyming words.

## ASPECT 5 - ALLITERATION

- To develop understanding of alliteration.
- To listen to sounds at the beginning of words and hear the differences between them.
- To explore how different sounds are articulated and to extend understanding of alliteration.

## ASPECT 6 - VOICE SOUNDS

- To distinguish between the difference in vocal sounds.
- To explore speech sounds.
- To talk about the different sounds we can make with our voices.

## ASPECT 7 - ORAL BLENDING AND SEGMENTING

- To develop oral blending and segmenting of sounds in words.
- To listen to phonemes within words and to remember them in the order in which they occur.
- To talk about the different phonemes that make up words.

## HOW TO PRONOUNCE LETTER SOUNDS CORRECTLY



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

# PHONICS AT HOME

Here are some simple activities you can do at home to help develop your child's phonological skills. Reading with your child each day is also extremely important, even just for ten minutes.

## ASPECT 1 - ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDS

You could go on a 'sound walk'. Listen carefully to the sounds that you hear around you. You could record the sounds or take pictures of them to discuss further at a later time.

## ASPECT 2 - INSTRUMENTAL SOUNDS

Experiment with different instruments. What sounds do they make? You could make your own drum, shaker etc by recycling and reusing household items.

## ASPECT 3 - BODY PERCUSSION

Put body percussion actions to songs e.g. 'If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands, stamp your feet' etc...

## ASPECT 4 - RHYTHM AND RHYME

Help children to become very familiar with rhyming stories and then encourage them to join in with the rhyming phrases/ words.

## ASPECT 5 - ALLITERATION

Play, 'I spy with my little eye something that starts with a ....'  
You may want to model writing the initial phoneme as well. How many things can you find starting with the same letter sound?

## ASPECT 6 - VOICE SOUNDS

Experiment with the different sounds your voice can make. Can you sing your favourite song using a loud/quiet/squeaky voice etc.

## ASPECT 7 - ORAL BLENDING AND SEGMENTING

When playing with a toy or reading a book, instead of saying a simple word you could orally segment the word, e.g - h-e-n, for your child to hear and blend the sounds together.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

- <https://phonicshero.com/>
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>