

TOP TIPS FOR LEARNING PHONICS

Support Your Child's Learning in Early Phonics



What is Literacy?

Literacy is about learning to read and write, being able to listen carefully and talk about ideas. These skills will help children in their learning now and in the future. Early reading skills include being able to know the difference between sounds– this is called ‘early phonics’. Early writing skills include ‘making marks’ and being able to talk about what they have drawn. At nursery, there are many opportunities everyday to practise literacy skills.

How do we help children develop early phonics skills at nursery?

- We have daily story groups for children to develop interest and understanding in reading and books.
- We have story and information books available in nursery.
- When we look at picture books with children we make the noises together eg animal sounds
- We sing songs and nursery rhymes and make up songs with silly sounds!
- We go on listening walks.
- We listen and talk to the children.
- We encourage children to recognise, make the sounds and tell us about familiar letters eg the letters in their name

What can you do to help?

Parents : Make sure your child sees you reading and writing and leave books, leaflets, magazines etc around the house. Read together regularly and do so in different places, involving different people. Have fun reading and writing and making the noises of the book characters together with your child! Taking pleasure in these activities will support your child to develop and progress throughout their education.

Six simple suggestions:

- 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.
- Go on a listening walk – when walking down the road, make a point of listening to different sounds: cars revving, people talking, birds singing, dogs barking. When you get home, try to remember all the sounds you heard. You could try taping the sounds, to listen to them again, or try reproducing them yourselves, using your voices or instruments.
- Read or tell sound stories. Your local library or bookshop will be able to point out some very good books that encourage sound-making as you read the story. This is huge fun and can involve all the family.
- Say words in different ways (fast, slowly, high, low, using a funny voice).
- Make up stories together about their favourite toys. Listen and write the story down with your child. Mark making is an important first step to writing.

Please ask your child's Key Person for more information...