

'What does it start with?' Box

You will need:

- A box
- Letter cards
- Several items each beginning with a different sound



Ask your child to choose an object from the box, to think what its first sound is and then to match the object with the relevant card.

Making Sentences

Read a book with your child so he/she is familiar with the story. Use the first sentence from the reading book and copy it out on a strip of paper. Now cut up the sentence into the individual words.



Ask your child to make the sentence using the individual words. When your child has made the sentence ask them to read it to you and encourage them to point to each word with a finger.

Some useful websites

http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlo_p_v4.html

<http://www.ictgames.com/machine.html>

<http://www.starfall.com/n/level-a/learn-to-read/play.htm?f>

<http://www.ictgames.com/forestPhonics/forestPhonicsOnline/index.html>

<http://pbskids.org/lions/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml>

www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics-games.html

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

If you require further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Red Lane Primary School



What is Phonics?

What is phonics?

Words are made up of small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes (sounds) that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read and spell words.



Teaching phonics

Children begin to develop their listening skills in Nursery. They listen to sounds in the environment, sounds they can make with instruments and also sounds they can hear in words.

In Reception, children begin to learn how to read and spell using phonics at the first approach.

In phonics lessons children are taught 3 main things:

1. Children are taught all of the phonemes (sounds) in the English Language and how to write them down. These sounds are taught in a particular order and the first ones to be learnt are **s,a,t,p,i,n**
2. **Blending-** children learn to say the sounds that make up a word and merge the sounds together until they hear what the word is. For example the letters c-a-t merge to make the word cat. Blending is a vital skill in learning to read.
3. **Segmenting-** this is the opposite of blending. Children say a word and then learn to break it up into the sounds that make it up. For example, children can split up the word mat into the sounds m-a-t. This skill is vital in learning to spell words.

Learning through Games

It is vital that early reading experiences are happy and positive. The aim should be not just for children to learn to read, but to enjoy reading.

Here are some ideas to try at home:

Environmental Print



Look for letters and words in your house or the local area. Point out and talk about the letters you see and the sounds they make as you read words on signs, labels, menus, and the TV.



Shopping

Look out for letters and words whilst you are shopping. Ask your child to look for letters on the labels or blend sounds to read labels.