

Phase 1 Phonics Overview for Parents

Why Teach Phonics?

Helps children develop good reading and spelling skills

Builds confidence

Improves fluency

Vital skill to pave the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience

What is Phase 1?

- Phase 1 in Phonics is not about learning the sounds it is about getting ready to learn the sounds. It is primarily speaking and listening activities.
- Phase 1 concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the next phases. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.
- **Being secure in Phase 1 is vital to future success in phonics.**

Phase 1 Phonics

Lots of practice is needed before children will become confident in their phonic knowledge and skills.


It is intended that each of the first six aspects should be dipped into, rather than going through them in any order, with a balance of activities.

We plan daily 5-10 minutes of fun, practical activities which caters for all different learning styles. These can be as a carpet activity or in small groups.

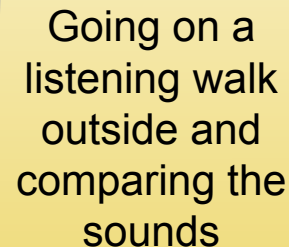
Aspect 1

General sound discrimination – environmental


The aim of this aspect is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills.




Listening to
animal sounds




Going on a
listening walk
outside and
comparing the
sounds



Drumming



Playing sound
lotto games

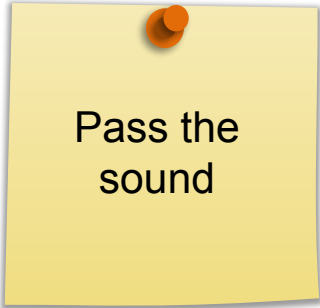


Listening and
remembering
sounds


Aspect 2

General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds


This aspect aims to develop children's awareness of sounds made by various instruments and noise makers.



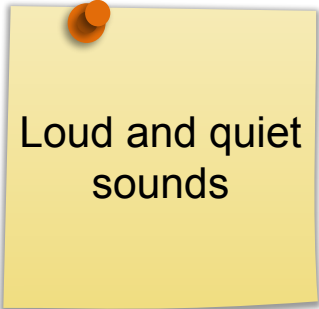
Pass the
sound



Comparing and
matching
sounds



Playing
instruments
along to a story




Loud and quiet
sounds


Aspect 3

General sound discrimination – body percussion


The aim of this aspect is to develop children's awareness of sounds and rhythms.



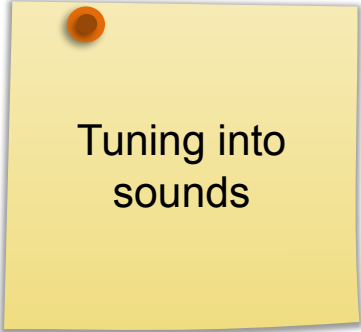
Singing songs
and action
rhymes




Listening to
music



Developing a
sound
vocabulary



Tuning into
sounds



Talking about
sounds

Aspect 4

Rhythm and Rhyme

This aspect aims to develop children's appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech.

Odd one out

Learning songs
and rhymes

Clapping out
the syllables in
words

Rhyming
stories

Rhyming bingo

Listen to the
beat

Aspect 5

Alliteration

The focus is on initial sounds of words.

Hunt for
objects that
start with the
same sound

I spy type
games

Silly sentences
with the same
sounds at the
beginning of each
word

Alliterative stories

Matching
objects to the
same sound

Identifying
patterns in
language

Aspect 6

Voice sounds

The aim is to distinguish between different vocal sounds and to begin oral blending and segmenting.

Explore speech sounds

Volume and tone

Making own voice sounds

Talk about oral blending and segmenting

Metal Mike –
using a robot voice to sound out the name of an object


Talk about the different sounds we can make with our voices

Aspect 7 – Oral Blending and segmenting


- Oral blending (ready to read) & segmenting (ready to write).
- In this aspect, the main aim is to develop oral blending and segmenting skills.
- To practise oral blending, the teacher could say some sounds, such as /c/-/u/-/p/ and see whether the children can pick out a cup from a group of objects.
- For segmenting practise, the teacher could hold up an object such as a sock and ask the children which sounds they can hear in the word sock e.g. /s/-/o/-/ck/.

Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a confident reader


Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:




Reread familiar stories. Tell them in your own words.




Talk about the characters and what they like/ do not like about them





Talk about the pictures and what is happening



Ask questions about the book



Leave out words so children can fill in the gaps



And most importantly enjoy reading

Remember...



“Children fall in love with books because of the memories created when they snuggle up and read with someone they love.” –

Raising readers

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” — Dr. Seuss, I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!

Other ways to help at home

Play 'I Spy'
with the
letter
sounds not
alphabet
names

Sing lots of
nursery
rhymes

Choose
stories that
have
alliteration

Play pairs
with words
and
pictures

Play sound
bingo
games

Play party
games such
as 'Musical
Statues'

Read lots of
rhyming
books

Rhyming
cards

Play the
Shopping bag
game

Listen for
sounds in the
environment