



PEOPLE



PROMOTE



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Phonics (Letters and Sounds) in the early years 0-5 Years

Remember: When teaching any kind of phonics, you must use the phonetical letter sounds e.g., a a a for apple, b b b for bus.

These stages of learning are important to complete (in the order listed above) because if children do not fully develop these skills it can mean that they may struggle to hear the individual sounds in words, which can make it harder to spell and blend sounds when they are learning how to read and write.

When teaching early phonics, often referred to as 'Letters and Sounds - phase 1' it is important to remember that this is not about reading and writing. Before children learn how to read and write it is beneficial that they learn how to recognise:

- 1-Environmental sounds.
- 2-Instrumental sounds.
- 3-Body percussion (e.g., clapping and stamping)
- 4-Rhythm and rhyme.
- 5-Alliteration.
- 6-Voice sounds.
- 7-Oral blending and segmenting (e.g., hearing that d-o-g makes 'dog')

All schools and some nurseries/pre-schools will teach early phonics, but there is no reason why you cannot begin this at home. Some examples of ways you can do phonics at home with your 0–5-year-old include:

- Listening and comparing the sounds of different toys or musical instruments – talk about loud/quiet/fast and slow sounds.
- Making sounds a part of your storytelling – making train noises when you see a train in a book, bark or growl when reading about a dog etc.
- Singing songs and rhymes – especially action songs so your child can also learn to anticipate actions when they hear a particular beat or rhythm.
- Clapping along to words or songs – to encourage your child to learn a beat and a constant rhythm
- Introducing rhyming words – rhyming books are particularly good for this, whilst reading emphasise the rhyming words and talk about how rhyming words sound the same - they have a different starting letter but the same end sound.

Phonics (Letters and Sounds) can also help to support language development and language understanding for children with English as an additional language.

When beginning with early phonics children do not learn to read or to write. The closest they will do to this is learn simple letter sounds when doing alliteration and oral blending and segmenting. The purpose of Level 1 is to develop children's listening and communication skills, including their vocabulary, to prepare them for reading and writing in the next phase (phase 2).