

# 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.

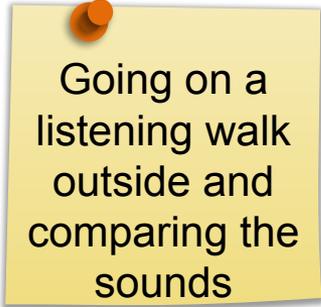
# Aspect 1

## 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.



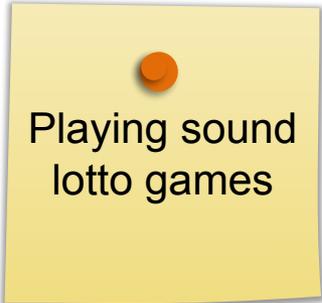
Listening to  
animal sounds



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.



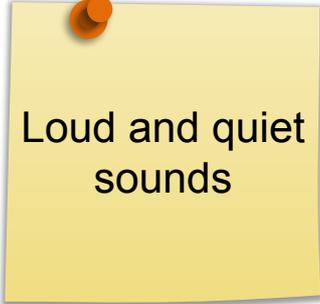
Pass the sound



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



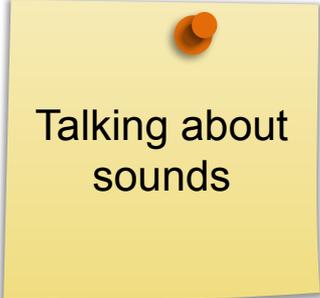
Listening to  
music



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