

Helping your child at home

I Spy

Play I Spy using letter sounds and letter names

Magnetic letters/letter cards

Find out which letters have been taught - have fun finding these with your child. Place them on the floor or a magnetic surface like your fridge or a tin tray.

Reading Words

Read these words together, say the sounds aloud e.g. g-r-ee-n, t-r-ee, t-r-ai-n, s-p-oo-n, b-r-u-sh, s-t-r-ee-t. This is blending.

Spelling Words

Now do it the other way around - say the word, split the word into sounds and make the word. This is segmenting.

Sentences

Write a sentence for your child. Ask them to read it to you. Then ask your child to change the sentence and write it e.g. *Mark fed the s-p-i-d-er, Mark fed the ch-i-m-p.*

Label Objects

Collect objects around the house with three or more sounds (see page 3). Ask your child to write labels for the objects. *Lamp, plant, drink, shelf, milk, lunch-box, toast, slipper, brush.*

Phonics at



Letters and Sounds Phase Four

A guide for parents/carers

What is phonics?

When your child starts Phase 4 they take part in a daily phonics lesson. In this lesson children learn that spoken words are made up of different sounds (phonemes) and that these can be linked to letters (graphemes). Sounds can be made of one or more letters. For example:

c as in cat ee as in sheep igh as in night

Children use this knowledge when they are reading and writing. When reading a word children are taught to say each sound they see and then put them together (this is called blending). For example:

p-e-n sh-ee-p n-igh-t

When spelling a word children are taught to do the opposite, say the word, split it into sounds and write the word on a board (this is called segmenting).



We are using a phonics programme called Letters and Sounds. There are six phases in this programme and your child is about to start **Phase Four**.

Your child now knows the following sounds:

s a t p i n m d g o c k
ck e u r h b f ff l ll ss j
v w x y z zz qu ch sh th
ng ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur
ow oi ear air ure er

Your child can read and spell simple words with these sounds. Now they are going to read and spell more complex words containing four or more sounds:
For example:

s-c-r-u-n-ch b-e-s-t ch-i-m-p-a-n-z-ee
w-e-n-t h-e-l-p g-r-a-b c-r-u-s-t
g-r-ow-l s-t-a-r-t p-l-u-m sh-a-m-p-oo