

Phase 1 Phonics in Nursery and Beyond

There are several pre-reading skills that underpin literacy for young children – these are the foundations from which their reading will flourish. In Nursery, children develop skills in **sound discrimination, rhythm and rhyme (and syllabic awareness), alliteration and initial sounds and oral blending and segmenting**. These skills should continue to be nurtured as children progress into linking sounds and letters as they continue their reading journey. Some letter sounds will be introduced later in the nursery year, though the main emphasis is on these pre-reading skills that are often referred to as Phase One Phonics.

Games and ideas to enjoy at home to support your child's phonic and reading development:

- Share many books! Having favourite books and knowing and joining in with repeated phrases is a great reading skill
- When reading, pause for your child to anticipate the word in a familiar book or rhyme "*Little Miss Muffet sat on a*"
- Recite and enjoy many nursery rhymes off by heart
- Share books with rhyme and having fun making up your own silly rhymes
- Sing songs and move to music, developing a sense of rhythm
- Add voice sounds to things that you see/do e.g. *wheeeeeee, plop, bang, mmmmmm*
- Clap syllables in words. When introducing new words/people's names clap it out e.g. *Bar-na-by* (3 beats/syllables)
- Go on a sound walk, encouraging your child to tune into environmental sounds
- Play a sound lotto, where players need to discriminate between sounds e.g. various animal sounds, or vehicles
- I spy with My Little Eye
- Have fun with tongue twisters, drawing attention to the repeated sounds e.g. *She sells seashells on the seashore*.
- Place three items on a tray (just a few objects at first). Which is the odd one out? Why? Sausage, sock, apple.... Is it the apple because it starts with a different initial sound? Or maybe your child will have another theory! E.g. *sock because you can't eat it*. Either way it should stimulate an interesting discussion and reasoning skills and you can draw attention to the initial sounds when you explain your reasoning.
- Put objects in a feely bag and play a guessing game- e.g. toothbrush, hat, spoon. Your child puts their hand in and guesses what it is...what sound does it begin with?
- **Oral blending and segmenting** can be incorporated into your everyday in a fun way. You can segment (break down a word into sounds e.g. c-a-t) as you talk to your child e.g. Please put your packet in the b-i-n?
- Simon Says – Put your hands on your b-a-ck, Put your hands on you h-ea-d, Touch you f-oo-t, tickle your ch-i-n etc.

Further Resources/ideas:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/TamesideMBC/media/education/VS-Phase-1-Games-to-Play-at-Home.pdf>

Online phase One phonic games:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-1>