

Phonics

At the start of the summer term we start teaching a daily phonics lesson to the older children in Nursery. These are the children who will move up to Reception in September. If your child will still be in Nursery in September this does not apply to you and we will teach this to your child at the relevant time.

Phonics is a method of teaching that matches sounds to letters and groups of letters.

Before children can start to read, they need to learn to:

- Say the sound that is represented by each letter or group of letters
- 'Sound-out' words, e.g. c-a-t, s-h-i-p, s-t-o-p

In Nursery we use a phonics scheme called Read Write Inc. You can watch a short video explaining this scheme by following the link:

<https://youtu.be/sjlPIlhk7bQ>

This is the same scheme that is used in the rest of the school. We teach the children Set 1. This includes 25 single letter sounds:

m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x

and 6 two-letter sounds:

th sh ch q u ng nk

These two-letter sounds are called digraphs and we refer to them as 'Special friends'.

Once the children know the sounds, we teach them how to blend the sounds together to read words.

Some sounds are 'stretchy' sounds (you stretch the sound as you say them):

fff, llll, mmm, nnn, rrrrr, sssss, vvvv, zzzzz, xxx.

Some sounds are 'bouncy' sounds (you bounce the sounds as you say them):

a-a-a-, b-b-b, c-c-c, d-d-d-, e-e-e, g-g-g, h-h-h, j-j-j, k-k-k, o-o-o, p-p-p, qu-qu-qu, t-t-t, u-u-u, w-w-w, y-y-y.

The Read Write Inc. company are running online lessons daily on YouTube. The group of sounds we are learning, Set 1, can be viewed every week day morning live at 9:30. They stay available to watch for 24 hours. In the videos they use a small frog toy called Fred to help the children practise blending sounds together. Fred can only speak in sounds so he needs the children to say the words for him. When the teacher in the video gestures her hands towards you, she is wanting you to repeat the sound or try and blend the sounds tog

Week 1

You will need paper and a pen/pencil. Use the cursive letter formation sheet to help you.

Session 1: Speed Sound: m

1. **Say the sound.** Stretch mmmmmmm as you press your lips together hard. Ask child to repeat. As for mmmmouse, mmmmountain, mmmmirror, mmmmoon.
2. **Read the sound.** Copy a simple version of Maisie and the mountains onto your paper (stick man for Maisie, squiggle for mountains). Run your finger down Maisie and then over the two mountains, saying mmmmm.
3. Repeat this several times.
4. **Air-write the letter.** Air-write m, saying 'here we go, Maisie mountain, mountain, off we go' as you form the letter in the air with your finger. Repeat several times.
5. **Fred Talk.** (you could use any small toy and call him Fred)
6. Introduce Fred and explain that Fred can only say words in sounds but not the whole word.
7. Say each word below in Fred talk. Ask your child to repeat. Allow your child to jump in and say the whole word if they can.

m-a-n man, m-u-m mum, ma-d mad, m-u-d mud

Session 2

1. **Say the sound.** Stretch mmmmmmm as you press your lips together hard. Ask child to repeat. As for mmmmouse, mmmmountain, mmmmirror, mmmmoon.
2. **Read the sound.** Copy a simple version of Maisie and the mountains onto your paper (stick man for Maisie, squiggle for mountains). Run your finger down Maisie and then over the two mountains, saying mmmmm.

3. Repeat this several times.

4. Air-write the letter. Air-write m, saying 'here we go, Maisie mountain, mountain, off we go' as you form the letter in the air with your finger. Repeat several times.

5. Write the sound. Put some flour on a baking tray. Show your child how to make the sound in the flour saying the rhyme. Repeat several times. You could use rice, shaving foam, lentils etc.

Session 3

- 1. Sound hunt.** Go for a sound hunt around your house. Can you find things that begin with m.
- 2. Write the sound.** Practise writing the sound. You could use a paintbrush and water, paint, crayons, felt pens. Remember to keep making the sound as you write.

Session 4

1. Draw the objects. Can you draw the objects you have found beginning with m?

2. Write the sound. Can you have a go at writing the sound?

Session 5:

Repeat your favourite activity from any of the above.

Have fun!