

## **Phonics in Nursery**

Before children learn to read and write they need to develop their phonological and phonemic awareness; being able to listen to and identify sounds and understand how they go together in words. Early Stage phonics facilitates this and provides the foundations to early reading and writing.

At this stage, the focus is primarily on developing speaking and listening skills. Speaking and listening are an important set of literacy skills that will create the basis to a lot of your children's further learning.

- Listening requires the fundamental skill of focusing attention on the speaker to be able to hear and understand what the speaker is saying.
- Speaking skills require students to take turns, speak confidently, stay on topic and speak with clarity.
- The ways in which practitioners and teachers model speaking and listening, interact and talk with children are critical to the success of Early Phonics activities and to promoting children's speaking and listening skills more widely.

Early Stage phonics allows children to experience regular, planned opportunities to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see and do and recognises the importance of play-based learning in a child's development. This facilitates speech and language development and provides the building blocks for learning to read and write.

Early Phonics is planned for within our Child Initiated play. The staff model oral segmenting and blending through the day every day of the year. In the summer term we teach a whole class phonics session daily. The sequence of teaching is in the table below.

<b><u>Summer 1</u></b>	
Week 1	Environmental Sounds
Week 2	Instruments
Week 3	Rhyme

Week 4	Syllables
Week 5	Initial Sounds

<u>Summer 2</u>						
	<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>	<u>Week 3</u>	<u>Week 4</u>	<u>Week 5</u>	<u>Week 6</u>
Monday	S	P	E	D	L	Z
Tuesday	A	N	H	G	F	W
Wednesday	T	C	R	O	B	V
Thursday	I	K	M	U	J	Y
Friday	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision	Revision

### How adults can help

- Listen to your child and encourage talking. Time spent listening to children talk to each other, and listening to individuals without too frequent interruption, helps children to use increasing, relevant language.
- Recognise that waiting time is constructive. It allows children to think about what has been said, gather their thoughts and frame their replies.
- Model good listening. This includes making eye contact with speakers, asking the sort of questions attentive listeners ask and commenting on what has been said.
- Give children ample opportunities to extend their spoken communication.
- Provide good models of spoken English to help young children expand their vocabulary and learn, for example, how to structure comprehensible sentences, articulate words correctly, speak confidently and clearly, and sustain dialogue.