



Reading at home

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will learn to do at school. With your support we aim to help your child to enjoy reading.

Basic skills for reading

- Children need to learn the sounds that the letters make
- They need to learn how to recognise and form the letters.
- They need to learn how to 'blend' the letter sounds together to make whole words.
- They need to learn how to recognise and identify sounds or combination of sounds in words
- They learn how to read and later spell those 'tricky' words by sight.



Jolly Phonics and Letters & sounds

We introduce each sound with an action. They will learn to recognise the shape of the letter, the sound it makes and the action to go with it. We introduce the children to the letter sounds at a steady pace allowing the children to gain confidence and practise a range of activities to reinforce learning.



Things to remember



- Make reading a happy time for you both
- Make it a time where you can relax together by being somewhere you can be quiet and undisturbed.
- Sit comfortably and make sure you can both see the book easily.
- Point to the words as they are read
- Encourage them to use the pictures as clues
- Allow plenty of time for talking about the story. E.g. What do you think will happen next?



Blending, Segmenting and Tricky words

Segmenting is when you take a word apart. To read the word 'hat' you would split the word into three letter sounds. Huh-ah-tuh. Blending is when you put the individual letter sounds together so you would say h-a-t 'hat'.

Your child will first sound out the word by saying each letter sound. Then they may silently sound out the word in their head and then say the whole word. After awhile your child will just say the whole word.

REMEMBER – Later on some sounds are represented by more than one sound. E.g. sh is not 'suh and huh' together. It is shuh as in shop or ship. These sounds are called diagraphs. Your child will eventually say sh-o-p or sh-i-p.

Some words cannot be read by blending. E.g. said, one like. We call these tricky words and are best learnt by sight.