

Chinley Nursery- Letters and Sounds (Phonics)

Learning Through Play

Promoting Parent Partnership

Learning to read

Each week in Nursery children will be given a 'letter of the week' to take home that has been introduced to them in Nursery. This folder or Sounds Scrapbook is designed for you to keep all of the letters together and be a place to practice and reinforce your child's learning through playing and having fun together. It is really important that learning to read is taught through a variety of games to give children happy and positive early reading experiences. The aim should be not just for children to learn to read, but to enjoy reading. This leaflet aims to give you some simple ideas to try out.

Your child's Sounds Scrapbook

Focussing on the letter of the week you could collect pictures of objects that begin with the focus letter. Do not use as examples words where the first sound does not make its normal sound such as in giraffe, ship, cheese, thumb. Stick the pictures on the appropriate pages.

Tips for teaching your child the sounds:

- ◆ It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these first at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, eg. **Paul**.
- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds: **a buh cuh duh e ...** rather than the alphabet names of the letters: **ay bee see dee ee** . The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names. eg. **cat, would sound like: see ay tee**
- ◆ When saying the sounds of **b, d, g, j** and **w** try to emphasise the main letter sound rather than the 'uh' sound which follows each. Some great examples of how best to pronounce these can be found at:

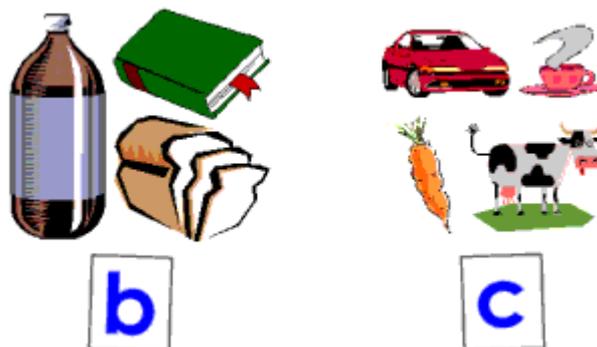
<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/sound-pronunciation-guide>

Sound Games to Play at Home...

Common Objects

Collect several objects that begin with the same sound and make a card with this letter sound on it. Make a second group of objects beginning with a different sound and a card to go with those.

Discuss the sounds of the letters on the two cards with your child and shuffle the objects. Separate the cards on the floor and ask your child to put each object near the sound that it starts with. This activity can help your child to "hear" the first sound of a word.



Odd-one Out

Say a number of words, all but one of which begin with the same sound. See if your child can pick out the odd one. It can be helpful to have the corresponding objects there for the child to look at.

Which starts with a different sound to the others?



I-Spy

For small children the usual way of playing that starts 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with' can be too difficult. You can make this easier by providing a clue. 'I spy with my little eye something that barks and begins with d'.

Games For Recognising Letter Shapes...

Fishing for Sounds

You will need a few cards with individual letters. Attach a paper clip to each card. Using a small stick with a string and magnet, your child fishes for letter sounds. If your child can say the sound of the letter he/she wins the card, otherwise you win it.

Sequencing the Letters in your Child's Name

Providing the individual letter cards for each letter of your child's first name can be a useful way to teach the sequence of letters. Remember you will need to write a capital for the first letter and lower case for the rest.

If you want to print out the cards using a word processor use a font such as *Century Gothic* on PC which has **□** not a. Show your child how to make the name first, before shuffling the cards for him/her to have a try. For a very long name work with the first few and build up a letter at a time.

'What does it start with?' Box

You will need:

- ◆ A box
- ◆ Several items each beginning with a different sound
- ◆ Corresponding letter cards

This game is similar to the common objects game on the previous page, but the emphasis now is on recognising the sounds the letters make. Ask your child to choose an object from the box, to think what its first sound is (remember it is the sound you are looking for rather than the alphabet name) and then to match the object with the relevant card.



If you require further information or advice please do not hesitate to come and chat to us.