

How to help your child at home with phonics

Read school reading books with your child at the weekend and encourage children to sound out any new words that they do not know. There are teaching guides in the front and back cover of the book which will help you and your child to know which phonemes are in the book and any words your child might find more challenging. If you come across a sound that your child is unfamiliar with record it in the reading record and possibly think of other words that contain this sound and get your child to practise reading these to help consolidate this sound. Don't forget that all reading books contain tricky words like to, me, the, people which cannot be sounded out.

Keep it fun and engaging, English is a tricky language to learn.

Make sure children say each sound correctly without the 'uh' on the end or they will find it tricky to put sounds together (blend). Please see the school website if you need to hear how the sounds (phonemes) are pronounced.

Give clear praise giving an example of what your child did well.

Example- "Well done! You said the digraph ____ correctly!"

Games and activities to play at home

Blending (putting sounds together to read new words)

1) Sound talk I spy.

Adult- " I spy with my little eye a r-ai-n-b-ow"

Child –"rainbow!"

2) Flashcard words on bits of paper- How many can they segment and blend in a minute?

3) Hot potato game- (You will need a pile of words with known sounds in them and 2 cards with the hot potato on). Play together, you read a word then your child. If you pick up the hot potato you must put all the cards back in the middle. The winner is the person with the most word cards.

4) Roll and read-(You will need a 1-6 die and a 4X6 grid). Write some words with the sound (phoneme) that your child is learning (see their weekly homework) write words in the grid and then get your child to roll the die. They then read the word in the column that they have rolled.

5) Sound buttons- Children to read the word by segmenting and blending. Children then draw dots and dashes under each sound to represent it. Example- three

Segmenting (breaking words up into sounds to help spell them)

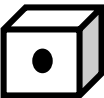
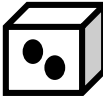

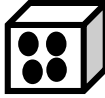
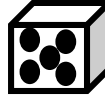
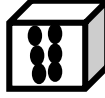
1) Building words using letters from magazines or using lower case magnetic letters.

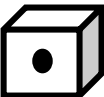
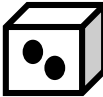


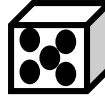
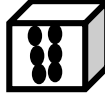
2) Plastic cups- write letters on the cups and get your child to build words that you say.

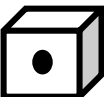
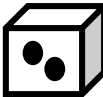


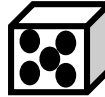
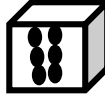
3) Hangman- children guess letters considering the phonemes that they have learnt and where these are normally found in words.

Useful websites to access phonics games: www.phonicsplay.co.uk, www.familylearning.org.uk, www.ictgames.com/literacy

If you need any more ideas or support please speak to your class teacher.

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