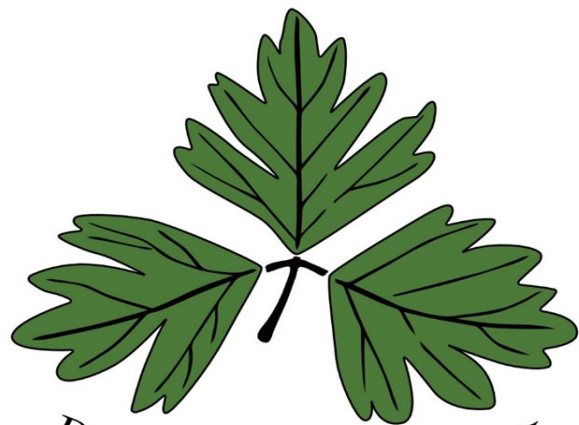


Parents' guide to Phonics in Nursery and the Early Years Foundation Stage



Badbury Park Primary



As parents and carers, you are your child's first teachers with a powerful influence on your child's early learning. Early activities such as singing, nursery rhymes, listening to music and turn-taking help your child to take the first important steps towards reading and writing. A strategy to support children to read and write is called Phonics.

If you can be involved in helping your child, we know it can make a big difference to your child's learning. Below is further information about the first stage of phonics which is called Phase 1.

Phonics in school

In Nursery, we focus on Phase 1 phonics. Phase 1 relies on children being able to hear and distinguish the sounds within words. The first phase focuses on key listening skills and recognising rhythm and rhyme in songs.

Our children learn through lots of play and activities and are encouraged to use their increasing phonic knowledge in freely chosen activities.



Phase 1 consists of seven interlinking parts. You can help your child develop in each of these areas by trying some of the ideas below. Remember that all these activities should be fun and interactive. Give your child lots of encouragement and cuddles as you play together. Smiles and praise will help develop a sense of achievement and build confidence.

1. Environmental Sounds

- Going on a listening walk—what can you hear? Listen to cars, birds, people. When you get home, try and remember what you heard.
- Make different sounds using sticks, pots and pans. Talk about what you can hear.
- Create your own 'sound bingo' to play.



2. Instrumental Sounds

- Make your own musical instrument using toilet rolls, beans, peas. Shake soft/loud/fast/slow.

3. Body Percussion

- Learn some action rhymes (Cbeebies has a wide range of Nursery Rhymes online)
- Listening to sounds your feet make when running, hopping, jumping,
- Practise different types of clapping (fast, slow, or following a pattern).

4. Rhythm and Rhyme

- Clap and jump syllables in words and rhymes.
- Read rhyming books—leave space for child to fill in the rhyme.
- Create your own rhyming strings (e.g. cat, mat, hat, pat) including made-up words.
- Add rhythm and clapping to rhymes and stories.



5. Alliteration (Alliteration is when the same sound occurs at the beginning of a set of words (for example, dig, dog, dot). In this example, the 'd' s called the initial sound.

- Use your child's name to create fully, alliterative sentences (e.g. Bob builds big bouncy bubbles)
- Play with alliteration in familiar songs e.g. 'Old Macdonald had some sheep, with a sh-sh here and a sh-sh there.'
- Odd one out—have a selection of objects (e.g. cup, cat, cucumber and dog). Say the words, which one does not have the same sound at the start?
- Collect objects with the same sound from around the house or on a walk.

6. Voice Sounds

- Make funny voice patterns and encourage child to copy you.
- Make up funny and nonsense words.
- Say words in different voices (high, low, funny voice).

- Vary tempo and pitch when reading stories.

7. Oral blending and segmenting.

Blending is a vital skill for reading: Putting together the sounds in a word in order to read it, e.g. 'f - r - o - g, frog'.

Segmenting is essential for writing: Breaking a word into its constituent sounds in order to spell them, e.g. 'frog, f - r - o - g'

- Try clapping and counting the sounds before you blend them.
- Play 'pick me' - selection of objects. Say the sounds and encourage the child to blend the sounds to find the toy.
- Drawing game—take it in turns then encourage the other child to draw a picture to match.
- Practice using robot talk to break word down into sounds.
- Play 'I Spy' - ask children to pick an item and break down sounds for you to guess.

Favourite Nursery Rhymes

- Baa Baa Black Sheep
- Hickory Dickory Dock
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- I'm a Little Teapot
- Incy Wincy Spider
- Once I Caught a Fish Alive
- Row your Boat
- Wind the Bobbin Up
- Wheels on the Bus
- Old MacDonald had a Farm

