

Phonics and Reading

Phonics

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language.

Written language can be compared to a code, so knowing the sounds of individual letters and how those letters sound when they are combined will help children decode words as they read.

Understanding phonics will also help children know which letters to use when they are writing words.

Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound k can be spelled as c, k, ck or ch.

Teaching children to blend the sounds of letters together helps them decode unfamiliar or unknown words by sounding them out. For example, when a child is taught the sounds for the letters t, p, a and s, they can start to build up the words: "tap", "taps", "pat", "pats" and "sat".





Phonics in the Infant Assessment Class

We follow the Read Write Inc. (RWI) scheme to teach reading and writing in the Infant Assessment Class.

Children are taught in very small groups or 1:1 based on their individual needs. We know our children need a quiet and low stimulus environment to support them to focus during phonics sessions. Children's progress is closely monitored to ensure they are both supported and challenged so teaching is most effective.

Please refer to RWI links on our website to find out more about Read Write Inc.

Reading in the Infant Assessment Class

In the Infant Assessment Class, we aim to provide a diet of 7 - day, with children accessing a minimum of five books every day.

1. We begin each day with a story or non-fiction book which we share as a class, we read the same book repeatedly throughout the week and participate in a wide range of activities connected to the book including daily speaking and listening activities. This book is often linked to other sessions such as Relax Kids, Attention Autism, PE, RE as well as within their play in both our indoor and outdoor provision. This cross-curricular approach supports children to generalise and make links with their learning and understanding.
2. We enjoy a more informal story at snack time where the children often choose old favourites that they enjoy listening to repeatedly.
3. As children develop their literacy skills, they read carefully selected books within their phonics sessions that give them the opportunity to practice and apply their new reading skills.
4. All children in IAC read daily with an adult on a 1:1 basis. Even our very youngest children will spend time looking at books during this quality time with an adult to develop their early reading skills. They will participate in discussions about the books and practice to decode words as appropriate.



5. Children are encouraged to access books throughout the day. We have a wide selection of books in our two welcoming reading areas and comfy places that children can curl up with a book of their choosing during child-initiated play times.
6. We like to finish our school day with a story, often we choose one that is related to our topic or play that we have engaged in that day.
7. Children also receive a book bag and home reading log to take home each night with a book to practice that they have read in school.

How you can help at home:

"Children are made readers in the laps of their parents."

Emilie Buchwald

- Read for fun on most days
- Share meal-times and talk together
- Cut down on TV viewing

- Do things together and visit local places: farms, parks, museums
- Teach children new skills and knowledge - cooking, drawing, music, sport
- Listen to each other

Reading at home:

- Read to your child everyday
- Ask lots of questions and share opinions
- Repeat readings of the same story again and again, children thrive on repetition
- Read with enthusiasm - love each story
- Use a range of vocabulary with your child
- Be a talk-a-lot family:
- Talk to your child as much as possible
- Use new and ambitious vocabulary
- Build interesting sentences together

Top 10 Tips for Storytime at home

1. Make it a treat
2. Make it a special quiet time
3. Show curiosity
4. Read story once without stopping
5. Chat about the story
6. Avoid testing with questions
7. Link to other stories and experiences
8. Read favourites over and over again
9. Use different voices
10. Love the book

10 things your child learns when you read aloud stories and poems every day

1. Sustain attention
2. Appreciate rhythm and rhyme
3. Build pictures in their minds from the words on the page
4. Understand humour and irony
5. Use new words and phrases in different contexts - and later in writing
6. Learn new vocabulary and knowledge of the world
7. Think about characters' feelings and use appropriate voices
8. Follow a plot with all its twists and turns
9. Understand suspense and predict what's about to happen next
10. Link sentences and ideas from one passage to the next

Free online resources

Ruth Miskin Parents' Page:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Free e-books for home reading:

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>