



# PHONICS IN NURSERY

2020



## WHAT IS PHONICS?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds and blend them together to help them read and write unfamiliar words.

In Nursery we feel it is really important to begin to prepare children for early reading as soon as they join us. We follow the government's recommended programme of Letters and Sounds, concentrating on Phase 1. This focuses on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for

further phonic work that starts in Phase 2.



**Phase 1** is all about listening to different types of sounds and learning to tell the difference between them. During this phase we will:-

- Explore and experiment with different sounds and words.
- Distinguish between different sounds, such as sounds in the environment, in the home, body/voice sounds and musical sounds.
- Show an awareness of rhyme and alliteration (words that start with the same sound)
- Spend a lot of time learning and singing nursery rhymes.





## **How do we teach phase 1**

Teaching phase 1 is all about engaging children with a variety of games and activities that encourages careful listening.

Music and rhymes play an important part in developing children's ability to listen carefully. Therefore singing songs and rhymes, plus making music is part of our daily routine in Nursery.

You will probably have heard your child talk about Beat Baby.

Beat Baby joins us at carpet time at the end of each session. She will only join us when everyone is quiet and all the children know that this is the time we sing songs/rhymes, play instruments, play listening games etc.



Beat Baby

As well as making phonics part of our daily routine, we have a phonics based input every week, usually on a Thursday. Again this will consist of games, songs, nursery rhymes, making music and listening game.

Towards the end of the year we will introduce the early phonic sounds, but for now we feel it is important for our Nursery children to develop the skills they will need to cope with future learning.



## How you can help at home

- Lots of singing songs and rhymes. Make it part of your routine for bath time e.g.
- Reading rhyming books such as 'The Gingerbread man' or 'The Gruffalo'.
- Think about the sounds in the house – play guessing games to see what the sound is.
- Think about sounds in the environment – go for walks, stop, look and listen; what can you hear? Can they copy the noise? What do they think has made the noise?
- Play loud and quiet games - Can they roar loud like a lion, now can they roar quietly? Tapping sticks together loudly and quietly, fast and slow.
- Where's that noise? – Child to close their eyes while you shake some keys, was the noise in front or behind them? Which side?
- Make your own musical instruments from anything you can find. Talk about the different sounds that they make.
- Play I spy games.
- Take advantage of your local library (if they are running any events at the moment)
- Use websites such as phonics play <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>, letters and sounds <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> . Also BBC Radio <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwgdgw> and YouTube for nursery rhymes.

**AND HAVE FUN !!**

