



Mayfield Pre-school

Parents Phonics Guide

What is 'phonics'?

Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words.

The Rose Review

In 2006, the government published a report commonly known as 'The Rose Review'. This gave clear recommendations in to teaching early reading and led to the publication of a document called "Letters & Sounds" – a programme which suggests a systematic way of teaching phonics to your child.

The "Letters & Sounds" programme is divided into phases. Each 'Phase' will build upon your child's phonological awareness and help to develop their ability to blend sounds together and segment words into discrete sounds. From Phase 2, groups of 'high frequency words' (those that appear frequently within the English language) and 'tricky' words (those that cannot be 'sounded' out) will also be taught.

What do we do?

Children of pre-school age work within Phase 1 and at Mayfield Preschool we will help engage your child in pre-reading activities to prepare them for phonics work.

Phase One activities concentrate on developing your children's speaking and listening skills, phonological awareness and oral blending and segmenting. These activities go hand in hand with the physical and practical opportunities that your child experiences at Mayfield Preschool.

Phonics teaching should be multisensory and at Mayfield Preschool we embrace that. This means your child will learn using all their senses, eg: singing, dancing, acting, using magnetic letters, making shapes in the air, looking at pictures, playing games, using computers, making sounds, making choices and as many other ways as possible. This is vital because all children learn differently.

These activities will be fundamental in paving the way for your child to make a good start in reading and writing.

Phase One:

Phase One activities are designed to help practitioners to listen to encourage talking, model good listening and excellent spoken language. The overarching aim is for children to experience regular opportunities to listen and talk extensively about what they see, hear and do.

Within this Phase there are 7 aspects;

- general sound discrimination (looking at environmental and instrumental sounds and body percussion),
- Rhythm
- Rhyme
- Alliteration,
- Voice Sounds
- Oral Blending
- Segmenting

The activities that we do at Mayfield Preschool allow us to be flexible in meeting the needs of every child and we plan week to week in order to integrate the activities according to the developing abilities and interests of the children in our setting.

Helping Your Child at Home

From a very young age we influence the way our children listen and talk. At nursery we work on helping your child to listen and talk for many purposes and this is something you can continue at home.

- **Make time to listen to your child talk:** when you meet them from school, at the park, meal times, bath times!
- Make sure that you **show them you are interested in what they are saying:** use facial expressions, nod and ask questions to help spur them on and enrich their vocabulary.
- **Playing with toys:** encourage your child to identify the sounds that toys, animals and objects make.
- **Listen at home:** switch off distracting sounds and encourage your child to really listen – what sounds can they hear? Can they copy the sound? What is making the sound? Can they tell you the order they heard the sounds?
- **Play a tune:** tap or clap a simple tune and get your child to repeat it, join in or make their own!
- **Use puppets/role play:** get your child to tell a story through a puppet or make up their own stories.

Reading

Reading to and with your child regularly and from a young age will really contribute to your child's future learning. Fostering good experiences of reading, whether it be a comic that is shared together, a bedtime story or simply some instructions for a game can all help influence your child into the type of learner they will become.

Make reading fun – ask your child questions about the pictures, encourage them to talk about what they see, what they liked or didn't like and let them make choices about what they want to read next.

Further Information

www.letters-and-sounds.com

www.jollylearning.co.uk