

Keeping up with the Children

Phonics Focus

Wednesday 7th November



Wessex
Primary School
Happy to learn together

What is phonics?

- Phonics is a method of **teaching children to read by linking sounds** (phonemes) **and the symbols that represent them** (graphemes , or letter groups). Phonics is the learning-to-read method used in primary schools in the UK today.
- Mr Thorne does phonics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LlTw0oiLNys>

A typical lesson at Wessex

- Listen and say the sound
- Hear the sound in words
- Read the sound
- Write the word

A blending session

- Recap sounds
- Fred talk- oral blending
- Building words- pushing the sounds closer and closer together
- Writing the words

- Lots and lots of praise and repetition!

How to help at home with sound recognition

- What sound have you learnt today? What does it look like? Can we find it in your book?
- Flash cards with the sounds on- hide them around your home or in the garden? When they find them can they tell you the sound they have found?
- Using magnetic letters on the fridge- can they children find the sounds we have learnt so far and put them to the top. Over breakfast can they tell you what they are?
- Foam letters in the bath- can they catch different sounds?
- When out and about, at the supermarket, café, restaurant, road signs- can they spot particular sounds?
- Make 2 sets of sound cards and play snap, saying the sound as you put it down each time- occasionally get it wrong!

How to help with letter formation

- Can the children write the sound in the bath water /on the shower screen?
- Can they write it with their finger, really big in the air, on a family members back, really small on the carpet?
- Can they write in a small plate of flour, salt, lentils, shaving foam, paint etc.
- Can they create the shape of the letter with lego, duplo, pasta, spaghetti etc.
- Can they paint it or chalk it or glue it and stick on top?
- Write it in lots of different colours

How to help with segmenting

- A feely bag full of 2 sound/ 3 sound items e.g. a p-e-n, toy c-a-t, toy d-o-g, b-oa-t , c-ar, b-u-s, sh-oe, b-ow-l etc. Ask them to reach in and pull out the item you have sounded out.
- Lots of fred talk short and often- can you put your c-oa-t on? Simon says touch your h-ea-d? If your happy and you know it j-u-m-p up and down? When sharing books can you find the c-a-t? I spy a f-i-sh
- Building words- use foam letters in the bath can they find the write sounds to make the word and stick it on the bath/ can also be done in a washing up bowl.

How to help with blending/reading

- Write out a short word, CVC word e.g.cat, can your child, drive a car along the sounds, slowly past each sound saying the sound and then quickly across the word.
- Using flash cards/magnetic letters/foam letters and slowly moving them closer together to make a word.
- A pile of cvc words, half each, every time the word is blended correctly you get a point (another opportunity for you to get it wrong and them to help you out) Make a pile of the words they got correct and the ones needed to practice for next time.
- In their reading books take a word each at first/ the first read- another opportunity for you to get it wrong!

Helpful websites for parents

- <https://www.theschoolrun.com/blending-sounds-teachers-tips> - blending advice
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/reading-at-home/phonics-made-easy/> - understanding phonics
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics>
- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/fun-ideas-learning-at-home/fun-ideas-ages-4-5/> -lots of activities.

Websites for children

- <https://learn.readwithphonics.com/school/phonics-games>
- http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story_files/hanging_monkeys_US.swf
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/search?q=alphablocks&filter=cbeebies&suggid=>

Resources

- Sound cards, sound card snap, cvc cards, cvc words

a b c ck d e f ff g h i j k l m n o p q
r s ss t u v w x y z

Thank You
