

# A Brief Introduction to Teaching Early Phonics in Nursery

Below is a guide to how we start the journey for reading and writing with phonics in school and the fun activities you can do at home. Some of these you will already be doing without realising what a great starting point they give to your child's literacy development.

**Letters and Sounds** is a phonics program designed to support the teaching of reading and writing. It is divided into **six phases**, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Most other schemes used by schools to teach phonics (Read, Write, Inc., Jolly Phonics, etc) are loosely based on this and have similar principles). See the whole document here:  
<http://www.schoolslinks.co.uk/LettersAndSounds.pdf>

**Phase 1 (Nursery/Reception):** This phase is split into 7 aspects and focuses on speaking and listening skills, rhyming, rhythms and starting to blend and segment words orally. *Children must learn these skills in order to be confident with phonics later on - **they do not need to learn to read or write any letter sounds before they start Reception!***

**Phases 2-4 (Reception):** Learn letter sounds, including those made by 2 letters and blend and segment simple words. Intro 'tricky/sight words'

**Phase 5 & 6 (Year 1):** Learn to spell letter sounds in more than one way e.g rain/day/make. Begin to learn more unusual spelling patterns

**Letters and Sounds:**  
Principles and Practice of High Quality Phonics  
Notes of Guidance for Practitioners and Teachers



Primary National Strategy  
Department for Education and Skills

**General Sound Discrimination**  
**Environmental Sounds (Aspect 1)**

*Listening walk*

**Instrumental Sounds (Aspect 2)**

*Making instruments*

**Body Percussion (Aspect 3)**

*Clapping/tapping games*



**Rhythm and Rhyme (Aspect 4)**

*Learning songs and rhymes, rhyming books, odd one out*

**Alliteration (Aspect 5)**

*(words that begin with the same sound)  
Silly sentences/tongue twisters, I Spy*

**Voice sounds (Aspect 6)**

*Voice sounds: loud/quiet; high/low; slow/fast  
Emotions: sad/grumpy voice, frightened voice.  
Phonic sounds - listen and repeat - mirror play*

**Oral Blending and Segmenting (Aspect 7)**

*Blending= Reading  
Segmenting= Writing  
Eg. 'Tonight we're having f-i-sh.'  
'Where is that c-a-t?' (using sounds not letter names)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUWv-1s>*

- For more activities and games see the "Phase 1 phonics activities" document attached
- Further reading <https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children/2018/how-to-teach-your-child-phonics/><https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PreSchool.htm>
- How to say the phonic sounds correctly: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LITw0oiLNys>
- If you would be interested in a free online course to learn more about Phase 1 phonics see the link at the end of the Phase 1 Phonics activities sheet

