

# Letters and Sounds

## What is Letters and Sounds?

Letters and Sounds is a systematic approach for teaching children to read using phonics. It is used in many schools in England but is not a mandatory part of the National Curriculum. It is split into six phases, from starting to learn about sounds at nursery to becoming fluent readers around age 7.



There are 7 aspects within Phase one of Letter and Sounds, we concentrate on Phase one which falls largely within the communication, Language and Literacy area of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. In particular, it will support linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. the overarching aim is for children is to experience regular, planned opportunities to listen carefully and talk extensively about what they hear, see, and do.

### The 7 Aspects in Phase one:

Aspect 1: Environmental sounds: To develop children's listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.

Aspect 2: Instrumental sounds: To experience and develop awareness of sounds made with instruments and noise makers.

Aspect 3: Body percussion: To develop awareness of sounds and rhythms.

Aspect 4: Rhythm and rhyme: To experience and appreciate rhythm and rhyme and develop awareness of rhythm and rhyme in speech.

Aspect 5: Alliteration: To develop understanding of alliteration.

Aspect 6: Voice sounds: To distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds, including oral blending and segmenting.

Aspect 7: Oral blending and segmenting: To develop oral blending and segmenting of sounds in words.

### How do we use it at Pre-School?

At preschool we practice our phonics every day to help build the children's communication and language development. Letters and Sounds aims to build children's speaking and listening skills as well as to prepare children for learning by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. We practice the 'Jolly phonics songs', which teaches

the individual letter sounds; this can be found on YouTube. As part of our Adult let activities, we offer a daily letter and sounds session which we carry out in small group activities. We concentrate heavily on Aspect 1 which looks at Environmental sounds. This enables the children to listen carefully to different sounds that they may not always recognise and associate them with different objects.

These activities prepare children for school, as it is important for children to learn Letter-Sound relationships because English uses Letters in the alphabet to represent Sounds. By learning the Letter Sounds it is preparing the children to read and write.

For more information on Letters and Sounds you can visit

[www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk](http://www.assets.publishing.service.gov.uk)

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