



How to teach your child read



In this session we will be talking about how you can help your child read and develop a love for reading.

Learning to read should be exciting and fun! Our ultimate goal is to foster a lifelong learner who loves to read and wants to read!



Reading to your child



If children love stories, they will want to read. The best preparation for learning to read is to hear lots of stories.

Encourage your child have a favourite story and be able to retell the story to you and other family members. It is very important that children understand what is happening in a story.

When reading to your child or listening to them read ask lots of questions. This encourages comprehension and understanding and it also builds and extends vocabulary and story-telling skills. Ask questions before, during, and after reading the book. Show your child the cover of the book and ask him/her what he/she thinks it is going to be about (predicting). While reading, ask what he/she thinks is going to happen or why he/she thinks a character made a particular choice (inferring). If a character is depicting a strong emotion, identify that emotion and ask your child if he/she has ever felt that way (connecting). At the end of the book, ask if his/her prediction(s) came true. Afterwards, ask him/her to tell you what he/she remembered happening in the book (summarizing).

Below are some more questions you could ask:

What do you think the story is about? How do you know?

Who are the characters in the story?

Is it an information book (non-fiction) or a story book (fiction)?

Where do you think they are going?

What might happen next?

How do you think she is feeling?
Why do you think he did that?
Which way would you go?
Which character would you like to be?
Did you like the story? Why?
What was your favourite part?



Phonics is how we teach children how to read.



Environmental sounds

It is really important that children can hear the difference between different noises in the environment.

Can your child work out the sound of keys jingling without seeing the keys? Can they tell the difference between a cow mooing and a sheep bleating? Can they tell you what they sounds are in the house? (doorbell, telephone, running water). Children should also be able to distinguish between the sounds that different instruments make.

Rhyming

The next stage involves rhyme. Can your child find two items that rhyme such as a mat and a cat or a pin and a bin?

Initial sounds

Then we begin to look at the sounds at the beginning of words. Can your child tell you things that begin with a certain sound? 'Sock sweet sun'. Can your child say the sound that a word begins with? Dog begins with a 'd'.

Phase 2

When children are ready children learn to recognise the letters and say the sounds they make. This is taught in a multi-sensory way.

For example, when teaching the letter s we might:

Look at the letter

Draw the letter on a friend's back with a finger so they can feel how the letter is formed

Listen to the sound the letter makes.

Discuss the letter name, how it looks and how it sounds (eg the letter S says 'sssss' and looks like this: s)

Find objects that begin with an s

Try foods that begin with an s

Write the s grapheme in various materials (eg baby lotion, sand, flour)

Find the letter s in our friends' names

Look for the letter s in environmental print

Teach the action for each letter –'Jolly phonics'

We learn at least four sounds each week and each sound has a different action.

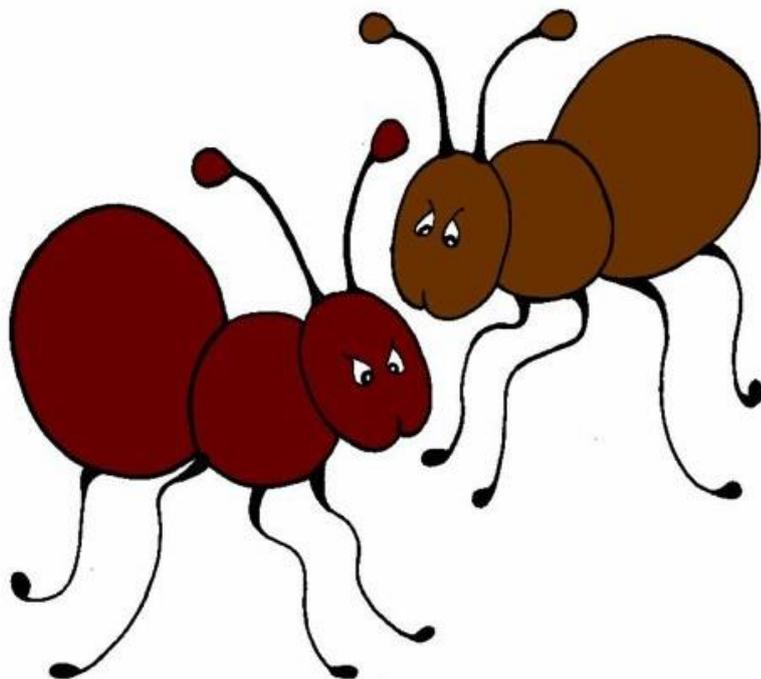
A a

short a



ACTION

Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you, and say *a, a, a!*



Group 1

s: Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say ssssss.

a: Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you and say a, a, a.

t: Turn head from side to side as if watching tennis and say t, t, t.

p: Pretend to puff out candles and say p, p, p.

i: Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling fingers at end of noise and squeak i, i, i.

n: Make a noise, as if you are a plane - hold arms out and say nnnnnn.

Group 2

c k: Raise hands and snap fingers as if playing castanets and say ck, ck, ck.

e: Pretend to tap an egg on the side of a pan and crack it into the pan, saying eh, eh, eh.

h: Hold hand in front of mouth panting as if you are shaking out of breath and say h, h, h

r: Pretend to be a puppy holding a piece of rag, shaking head from side to side, and say rrrrrr.

m: Rub tummy as if seeing tasty food and say mmmmmm.

d: Beat hands up and down as if

Children are taught the letters in this order to enable them to read, blend and segment words as quickly as possible. Alongside this, we do practise alphabetical order.

Blending and Segmenting words

Children are expected to hear sounds in words. We start with initial sounds and move onto hearing CV sounds and then CVC word sounds.

R e d red

P o t pot

Sh ee p sheep

Tricky words

Children will also be learning 'tricky' words. These words are to be learnt by sight and should not be sounded out.

To the no go I you my put he she me was



Reading books



We use the ORT amongst other reading schemes at Redlands. The first of these scheme books (grey) will not contain words. The aim of these books is for children to be able to develop their use of picture clues and tell the story in their own words. This will encourage them to use story language and be familiar with the characters.

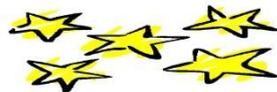
When your child is ready they will move onto the pink books which contain simple words and phrases and then onto red books. See separate colour band sheet.

Your child will also read words, captions and sentences as part of our literacy and phonics adult led sessions.

It is extremely important that you listen to your child read their reading scheme books. It might only be two pages a night but we recommend a little bit of reading every day.

Those children who are listened to read at home regularly make the most progress with their reading.

We want to know how your child is doing in reading at home so please write a comment in their reading diary or at least date and sign it so we can keep a track of their reading in order to give out reading stars!



Reading Stars rewards to encourage reading. A star stamp is given every four times your child has been heard read. This can be at school or home. Once they have achieved four stars in their book they get a star on the big star in class. Once they have 16 stars on this star they get a special prize – they can choose a story book to keep!

“You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book.” Dr Seuss

Below are some of the terms we use when we talk about early reading.

Blend The process by which individual sounds are pushed together to make a word (eg c-a-t cat).

Diagraph Two graphemes that together make one phoneme (eg ck, ng, ph, kn, qu).

Environmental print Writing in our environment, such as signs that say Tesco or push and pull.

Grapheme What a letter looks like when it’s written.

Initial sound The first phoneme in a word (eg h in hamster or ph in photo).

Misconceptions When a child has misunderstood or mislearnt something.

Multi-sensory Using more than one sense.

Phoneme The sound a letter makes.

Segment The process by which words are broken down into individual sounds (eg cat -> c-a-t).

Below are some websites you could visit to help your child read;

- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/direct-link/phonics-made-easy>
- <https://www.mumsnet.com/learning/phonics/helping-your-child-learn-to-read-using-p>
- www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/
- www.poissonrouge.com
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk Phonics games for children. Click on free phonics play, Phase 1.
- www.nurseryrhymes4u.com Has a music and song section with melodies and lyrics.

- <http://www.sebastianswan.org.uk/index.html> Online books to click and read
- www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies Queen mother of all foundation websites, games, songs, stories etc.
- www.funwithspot.com Spot is the adorable dog and the main character of a series of books.
- www.bobthebuilder.org Popular cartoon in the UK with educational games.
- <http://www.sesamestreet.org/home>
- www.uptoten.com Click on free, stories, games, puzzles, etc.
- www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading101/printawareness
- www.helpkidzlearn.com Games that help mouse and ICT skills
- www.readingeggs.com Free trial for 2 weeks, subscription needed thereafter.