

## Phonics Groups

In the early years, young children are continually developing many phonics skills, which will help them learn to read and write.

During our weekly phonic groups the children learn to listen to identify different sounds, hear and identify rhyming words and words that start with the same letter sound (alliteration), say the individual sounds in words and blend them together, and identify letter sounds in words to help them read and write words and sentences.

Phonics teaching is divided into phases, phase 1 is the phase prior to when children start learning letters, it is based mainly on listening to sounds in the environment, to rhymes, raps and oral blending and segmenting. Phase 2 is where we start teaching letters and sounds.

In phase 2 letters and their sounds are introduced individually. A set of letters (usually in groups of 3 or 4 letters) is introduced over about three weeks, in this sequence.

Children will be taught to say, hear, identify, read and write the different sounds. Here is the typical sequence of letter sounds taught throughout early years:

Phase 2: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss.

Phase 3: j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er.

As soon as each set of letters is introduced, children are encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words (sound talk), eg they learn that s-a-t when blended says sat. They also learn to segment words eg they may be asked to find which letters to use to make the word tap from a small bank of magnetic letters.

