

Sequencing the Letters in your Child's Name

Providing the individual letter cards for each letter of your child's first name can be a useful way to teach about the importance of the order of letters when making words. Remember you will need to write a capital for the first letter and lower case for the rest.



'What does it start with?' Box

You will need:

- ◆ A box
- ◆ Several items each beginning with a different sound
- ◆ Corresponding letter cards

In this game the emphasis now is on recognising the sounds the letters make. Ask your child to choose an object from the box, to think what its first sound is (remember it is the sound you are looking for rather than the letter name) and then to match the object with the relevant card.



Letter Formation

Sand Tray or Finger Paints

Children enjoy writing letters with their fingers in a tray of sand or with finger paints. These activities provide good opportunities to teach correct letter formation. Please refer to Letter Formation Sheet for correct formation to teach.



Blending sounds to read words

Oral blending can start as soon as children begin hearing sounds. They need to practise listening to sounds and blending them together to hear the word.

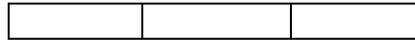
What's in the bag? Have a bag of items like a pen, an apple, a mug and a card. Say the object's sounds and ask your child to blend the sounds together (say them quickly) to hear the word.

Speaking in sounds Use a puppet who can only speak in sounds. The children have to listen for the word. Ask the puppet what she would like to drink – 'j' 'oo' 's'.

Segmenting ("chopping up" words) to spell

Sounds are right through the word NOT just at the beginning. Play 'I-Spy' but ask your child to spot something 'ending with n' or 'with an 'a' in the middle'.

Say a simple 3 letter word to your child, e.g. dog. Give them a piece of paper or card with 3 boxes drawn on it. Ask them to say the first sound and find the letter that matches that sound. Put it in the first box. Repeat for the second and third sounds. When all 3 letters are placed in the boxes ask your child to say each sound and blend them to read the word. Repeat for other words.



Tricky Words

Reading Tricky Words

Letter sounds are not always helpful when learning to read some words. These tricky words just need to be remembered. Show your child a tricky word and read it to him/her. Talk about the letter it begins with, ends with, count how many letters it has. Hide the word and ask your child to find one the same from a few other words. Can they find it? Look for the word in a reading book – how many times can you see it?

These words just have to be learned by sight so why not stick a few up around the house – as passwords to the fridge, TV etc.

Try to think of a way for your child to remember each word.

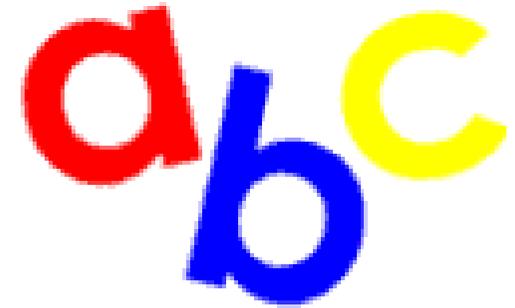
Spelling Tricky Words

Give your child time to look at the word and talk about the letters in the word. Then cover the word and ask your child to write the parts s/he can remember. Let them look again if s/he needs to, cover it and ask them to write it again. Repeat until s/he is able to write it from memory.

Ripple Primary School



Letters and Sounds



Information Leaflet for Parents

If you require further information or advice please do not hesitate to speak with your child's class teacher.

Updated October 2017

Five Basic Skills for Reading and Writing

1. Learning letter sounds.
2. Learning to form letters correctly.
3. Blending sounds to read words.
4. Segmenting ("chopping up") sounds to spell words.
5. Spelling tricky words.

This leaflet offers some suggestions of activities to do with your child to help them to develop each of the 5 basic skills.

The Sounds of Letters

Tips for teaching your child letter sounds

- ◆ It's all about the sounds letters make in words – NOT letter names!
- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child, remember to focus on the sound it makes, e.g. **a letter b makes the sound buh**. The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names, e.g. knowing the letter names C A T does not help to hear the sounds in the word 'cat' (cuh, ah, tuh)
- ◆ It is important that all adults working with children say each sound clearly and correctly. The following website will help you to articulate the letter sounds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwJx1NSineE>

- ◆ The reason for learning letter sounds is to USE them! We blend sounds together to read a word and for spelling we break words in to sounds (see the blending and segmenting section).
- ◆ There are 44 sounds in our language. Many of these can be spelt in a variety of ways but they all make the same sound. For example think of the 'ee' sound and the different ways we spell it: **see, tea, baby, key, taxi, people!**

- ◆ It is important for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at first. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these first at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, e.g. **Paul**.
- ◆ You can help by making sure your child has real ownership of the letter sounds. To own a sound a child must be able to:

- ☺ **Hear** the sound when spoken or in a word
- ☺ **Read** the sound in and out of words
- ☺ **Write** the sound in response to hearing it

Here are some activities you can do to help embed these sounds in your child's memory...

Sound Games to Play at Home

Matching sounds to letters

Place 3 or 4 letter sound flashcards on the table and say one of them – children have to quickly pop their hand on the sound you have spoken.

Common Objects

Collect several objects that begin with the same sound and make a card with this letter sound on it. Make a second group of objects beginning with a different sound and a card to go with them.

Discuss the sounds of the letters on the two cards with your child and shuffle the objects. Separate the cards on the floor and ask your child to put each object near the sound that it starts with. This activity can help your child to "hear" the first sound of a word.

Silly Soup

Find a selection of objects that all begin with the same sound, e.g. s. Put them into a bowl, pretending to make silly soup. Repeat for different letter sounds. Can your child find anything to add to the soup? Make a list of the things that were put into the soup.



Odd-one Out

Say a number of words, all but one of which begin with the same sound. See if your child can pick out the odd one. It can be helpful to have the corresponding objects there for your child to look at to start with.



I-Spy

For small children the usual way of playing this game starts 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with' This can be too difficult. To make this easier, provide a clue, e.g. 'I spy with my little eye something that barks and begins with d'.



Sounds Scrapbook

Write a letter at the top of each page of a scrapbook. Concentrate on a few letters at a time and collect pictures of objects that begin with those letters. Try to use examples of words where the first sound is clear, e.g. goat rather than giraffe, sock rather than ship.

Games for Recognising Letter Shapes

Letter detectives

Look for sounds in your home or local environment, on the games console, road signs – everywhere!



Fishing for Sounds

You will need a few cards with individual letters on them. Attach a paper clip to each card. Using a small stick with a string and magnet ask your child to fish for letter sounds. If your child can say the sound of the letter he/she wins the card, otherwise you win it.