

Reading at Home

There are so many fun ways you can support your child to read and write. Here are just a few...

Sound talk - "Do up your z-i-p zip please." Ask them to join in!

Alliteration - 'Tommy tickled a ticklish teddy'. What is the first sound they can hear?

Magnetic letters to build simple words: as letters are selected say each letter sound

c-a-t = cat f-i-sh = fish

Special writing box filled with paper, chunky pens and chunky pencils for children to practice writing letters and building words.

Sharing books together is one of the most important ways you can support your child to learn to read. First and foremost it encourages children to develop a love of books. It also develops their vocabulary and their confidence, it allows them to practice their blending and segmenting skills, it gives them chance to develop their knowledge of key words and it is enjoyable!

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like some more ideas or support to help your child to read and write at home.

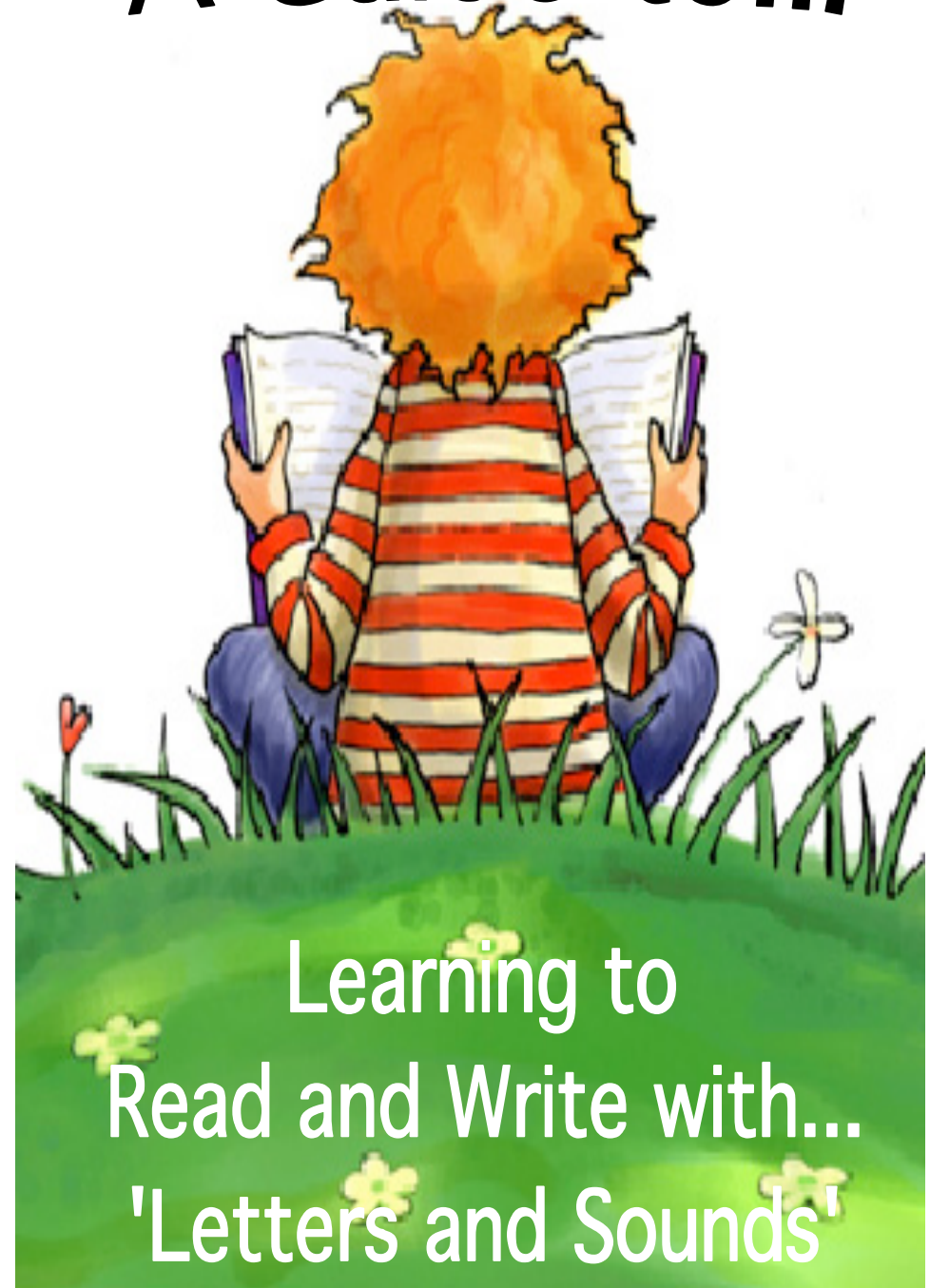
Useful Websites

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.familylearning.org.uk

www.ictgames.com

A Guide to...



Letters and Sounds

From an early age children develop awareness of different sounds in spoken language. They learn that spoken words are made up of different sounds (*phonemes*) and how to match these phonemes to letters (*graphemes*). Phonics is about children knowing how letters link to sounds (*graphemes to phonemes*), for example, **c** as in 'cat', **ll** as in 'fell', **ee** as in 'sheep'.

We use a systematic phonics programme called *Letters and Sounds*.

During a phonics lesson children have time to practice and develop their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words', which are words with spellings that are unusual.

Two important skills that support reading are segmenting and blending. The separate sounds (*phonemes*) are spoken aloud, in order, through a word. This is called segmenting. They are then merged together to make the whole word. The merging together is called *blending* and is an important skill for reading. This is also used to support writing and spelling.

Segmenting and blending: c - a - t cat
Segmenting to spell: sheep sh - ee - p

Pronouncing Sounds

Some sounds are stretched such as mmmm, ssss, zzzz

Some sounds cannot be stretched such as c k t b d

Try hard not to add an 'u' to the sounds e.g. mu, su, cu

There are some tricky sounds:

x is pronounced 'c s' qu is pronounced 'c w'

Phases 1 to 4

There are 6 phases in the Letters and Sounds programme and children progress through each stage at their own pace. In Early Years we teach Phases 1 to 4.

Phase 1: Developing listening skills identifying sounds all around them and oral blending.

Phase 2: Children learn the phonemes (*sounds*) for a number of letters (*graphemes*), which phoneme is represented by which grapheme and that a phoneme can be represented by more than one letter, for example, /ll/ as in b-e-ll. We use Jolly Phonics actions to teach these. They are also learn tricky words such as I, no, go, into

Phase 3: Children learn more graphemes, most of which are made of two letters, for example, 'oa' as in boat, practice blending and segmenting a wider set of CVC words, for example, fizz, chip, sheep, light, learn all letter names and begin to form them correctly, read more tricky words and begin to spell some of them and read and write words in phrases and sentences.

Phase 4: Children continue to practice previously learned graphemes and phonemes and learn how to read and write: CVCC words: tent, damp, toast, chimp
e.g. t=consonant e=vowel n = consonant t=consonant
CCVC words: swim, plum, sport, cream, spoon

They learn more tricky words and continue to read and write sentences together.