



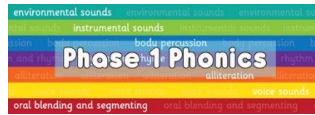
How children's spoken language supports reading and writing

Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing. Even everyday activities such as preparing meals, tidying up, putting shopping away and getting ready to go out offer you the chance to talk to your child, explaining what you are doing. Through these activities, children hear the way language is put together into sentences for a purpose.

Books are a rich source of new words for your child – words you would not use in everyday conversations appear in books. Children need to have a wide vocabulary to understand the meaning of books – so read aloud and share books as often as you can. They will enjoy it and it will be useful to them when they come across these words in their own reading later on.

Ways to support your child at home: talking and listening:

- ***Make time to listen to your child talking*** – as you meet them from their setting or school, as you walk, or travel home by car, in the supermarket as you shop, at meal times, bath times, bedtimes – anytime!
- ***Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones*** – and really listen.
- ***Show that you are interested in what they are talking about*** – look at your child, nod your head, ask a question or make a response to show that you have really been listening.
- ***Make a collection of different toy creatures*** – e.g. a duck, snake, an alien. Say the sound it might make as you play together e.g. 'quack-quack', 'sssss', 'yuk-yuk and encourage your child to copy you.
- ***Listen at home*** – switch off the TV and listen to the sounds both inside and outside the home. Can your child tell you what they heard, in the order in which they heard it?
- ***Play-a tune and follow me!*** - Make or buy some simple shakers, drums and beaters – play a simple tune and ask you child to copy. Have fun!
- ***Puppets and toys*** – Use these to make up stories or retell known ones. Record your child telling the story and play it back to them.



Phase One of Letters and Sounds concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills. In preschool activities are planned that will help children to listen attentively to sounds around them such as the sounds of their toys and to sounds in spoken language. Children learn nursery rhymes and songs and have good books read to them. This helps increase the number of words they know (their vocabulary) and helps them talk confidently about books.

Ways to support your child at home:

Play 'What do we have in here?' Put some toys or objects in a bag and pull one out at a time. Emphasise the first sound of the toy/object by repeating it e.g. 'c c c – car', 'b b b b – box', 'ch ch ch ch – chip'.

Alliteration – Say 'A tall tin of tomatoes!', 'Tommy, the ticklish teddy!', 'Milo makes music!'. Teach them 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers'.

Sound-talk

In preschool the adult shows children how to do this e.g. **c – a – t = cat**. The separate sounds are spoken aloud, in order and then **blended** together - a vital skill for reading. Children also learn to do this the other way around e.g. **cat = c – a – t**. The whole word is spoken aloud, then **segmented** up into its sounds in order – a vital skill for spelling. This is all oral (spoken) and the emphasis is on helping your child to hear the separate sounds in words and to create spoken sounds.

Ways to support you child at home:

Find real objects around the home which have three sounds

- I spy a p – e – g peg
- I spy a c – u – p cup
- Where's your other s – o – ck sock
- Simon says 'put your hand on your h – ea – d head
- Simon says 'touch your ch – i – n chin