



Our Meadows Top Tips for Early Phonics

Your child has now begun the exciting journey of learning how to read. We must not forget this is a tricky thing to do and requires a lot of effort on their part and a lot of patience on yours! Here are some tips and games to play at home to help them grow in their knowledge and skills as an early reader. Have fun and thank you for your support!



Robot Talk



Your child will need to "hear" the sounds in words to help blend them together. When you talk like a robot and chop the sounds up it is known as "segmenting" the word e.g. d-o-g is "dog". It may sound simple to you, but you have been practising reading for a long time! Play fun games such as asking your child to go and find objects - but talk like a robot in your instruction e.g. "go and get the.....p....a.....n" they can then race to the kitchen and get a pan for you. You could also have some objects on the table ready and get them to select which one it is out of a group.

Listening Games



Listening games in general are a great way to encourage young children to tune into sounds. You could go on a sound walk and notice all the sounds you can hear; you could play three different sounds under a cover and get your child to guess what they are (eg spoons banging together, a tambourine, a shaker); one of you could disguise your voice and see if the child could guess who it is. "Simon Says" is also a good way to practise following instructions as well as using important listening skills. You could also be a robot here by saying "Simon says put your hands on your h-ea-d."

BINGO!

sat pin bingo!

n	t	i
a	p	s

We all love a game of Bingo! Play as a family using the sounds that we have learnt this week (see Seesaw for details) and recap our previous sounds. Children will love being the bingo caller as well as playing the game. To uplevel this once they are confident, you could try using these sounds to make CVC words for your bingo cards e.g. pat, pin, sat, tin.



Treasure/Scavenger Hunts



Children love looking for clues and being active. Hide the sounds/words around the house and garden and use a timer to see how long it takes for them to find and read them to you. Pirate costumes are optional!

Computer Games: These can be useful to consolidate and build your child's confidence. Here are a few you may wish to check out on the Topmarks website.



Sky Writer

A handwriting demonstration tool which demonstrates correct letter formation. It works well as a whole class activity on an interactive whiteboard or in a group situation on a tablet. It includes a cursive writing option.

[Letters and Sounds, English Games for 3-5 Years - Topmarks](#)



Phoneme Pop

A good game if you are learning your letter sounds. Try to pop the bubbles and collect them in the container at the bottom of the screen.



Balloon Phonics

Balloon Phonics is a game which focuses on three letter words (cvc). There are three game modes: Initial sounds, Middle sounds and End sounds. Appropriate for Phase 2 Letters and Sounds.

More Tips and Tricks

Read Everything and Anything!

Reading doesn't always have to include a book. You can read menus, comics, magazines, instructions - anything!

Point Out Words and Letters

If you see a specific letter or word that your child is learning, point it out wherever you see it - books, posters, on the TV.

Create a Reading Space

Help motivate your child to read by setting up a reading den or space. Displaying books nicely will help to promote children's curiosity and making a comfortable, engaging space for them to read is more likely to encourage them to pick up a book.

Make It Fun!

Wherever possible, try to make reading as fun as possible! If they don't enjoy it - they won't want to do it. Try to plan time into your day when you can have story time together and read your favourite stories. Choose books which match their interests and give them lots of positive praise for reading. These are all great ways to get your child to want to keep reading.

Please feel free to come and have a chat if you are still unsure about how to help your child with their reading development. Remember little and often is best and we promise you- the hard work is worth it. Watching your child learn to read is magical!

The Early Years Team

THERE ARE MANY LITTLE WAYS TO
ENLARGE YOUR CHILD'S WORLD.
LOVE OF BOOKS
IS THE BEST OF ALL.

- JACQUELINE KENNEDY

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