



Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds Early Years Service, Children's Services Buckinghamshire Council

What is Phonics and Early Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read by matching sounds to letters. Children then blend these sounds as they read words.

Early Phonics is the process when children begin to become phonologically aware – they hear the sounds in the words we say. They need to hear different sounds and how they link to spoken words. They will then begin to recognise sounds that are the same and those that are different. You can help your child develop these skills through these fun games. For more ideas click on this link [Fun Phonics games - CBeebies Parenting](#)

Alliteration

Is the repetition of the same letter or sound at the start of a word

Play with your child:

'**1 spy objects**' which start with the same **sound** – sofa, sausage, socks, soap (ssssss)

Have fun with 'Tongue Twisters' she sells seashells on the seashore

Use your Phone **Camera** to take photos of objects that begin with the same sound.

Make silly names for each other – Munching Mummy, Silly Sara, Funny Faizaan



Early Phonics Fun

Sounds we can make

Make different sounds with your body, can you clap your hands, pop your lips, stamp your feet, click your fingers?

Make up a secret handshake. Get creative with thumb wiggles, claps, slaps and clicks to make your greeting. Maybe you could even add a twirl!

Rhythm, Beat and Rhyme

Sing songs and nursery rhymes - you will have favourites but find new ones here - [Words for Life](#).

**March in time to the Grand Old Duke of York,
Oh the Grand old duke of York
He had ten thousand men
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And he marched them down again
And when they were up they were up
And when they were down they were down**

Sounds with our voices

Make up voice sounds when reading e.g. for Goldilocks/ Daddy Bear.

Add sounds for an aeroplane, or a clock then you point to the pictures.

NYAAAAAAW or TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK,
Sing songs with noises – Old Macdonald had a farm

Instruments

Play pots and pans with wooden sticks. Take turns to tap out a pattern and copy each other? Fill plastic containers with different pasta or rice and make a **shaker band**. Use these to play music as you sing and dance.



Information for Parents & Carers

Top Tips

Help your child to develop their listening skills is the first step.

You can help by using lots of songs, nursery rhymes and play together to discover sounds, both hearing and repeating them helps.

Use instruments and your own bodies and voices to make and copy sounds.

Listen out for rhythm and rhyme (e.g. spotting the rhyming words in a nursery rhyme.) Being able to sing 7 nursery rhymes perfectly can help you child to read.

For older children, splitting a word into its separate sounds (e.g. 'd-o-g' makes 'dog') gets them ready for reading. Make sure when you talk about the sounds that letters make use the simplest sound. The letter M makes the 'mmmmmm' sound and not muh – find out more [here](#)

Chatting Matters

Vocabulary and **increasing** the number of new words you child hears every day is very important for future learning.

Find out more about your child's development

[What to expect in the Early Years: A guide for parents](#)

If you have any concerns about your child's development the first thing you can do is chat to your child's Key Person at their setting.



Find out more

[Let's get talking - toddlers](#)

[CBeebies Storytime](#)

[CBeebies Parenting](#)

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

[Learning to talk - Start for Life - nhs.uk](#)

[Home - Starting Reception](#)



Communication and Language

3 and 4 year olds

You might notice that your child can:

- Listen and join in singing nursery rhymes, songs and when you read books.
- Join in with rhymes and recognise when words start with the same sound, like 'big boat' and 'tall tower'.
- Clap their hands to match the sounds in words, like 2 claps for "he-llo".
- Talk about stories, know they have beginnings and endings and sometimes will guess how the story will end.
- Can listen to longer stories and talk about the people, places and what is happening.
- Can tell you lots of words that rhyme with a word like "hat".
- Can hear and tell you the first sound in a word when you say the word.
- Can say each of the sounds in a short word like "cat".
- Can put the sounds together and tell you the word when you say each of the sounds like "c-a-t"

Most children learn to read during their first year at school, the Reception year. There are lots of things you can be doing before this to give them the best start. This stage is often called Phase 1 phonics.