

Guidance for Phonics in Nursery

Talk-a-lot and Read-a-lot

Nursery rhymes and storytime

- The main focus in nursery classrooms is **reading stories and rhymes to children** and **developing their language**.
- Staff will spend **three times as much time reading stories to children** as we spend teaching phonics.
- **Nursery rhymes** and **stories** are repeated regularly, children love stories that are familiar with and can join in with.
- Children and staff **role play** stories, developing their language, new vocabulary and the enjoyment of play.



Planning talk throughout the day

- Children have planned **time for talk** throughout the day – during family group time, snack times and play.
- Adults plan for **specific vocabulary** that may be unknown to the children, they share this with them and then use it in context throughout the day.
- Adults plan to **use a range of words and phrases** with similar, but slightly different, shades of meaning (synonyms).
- Grammar and vocabulary is taught by **building sentences orally throughout the day** – about pictures, real objects, children’s paintings etc.
- Adults use **forced alternatives** to provide children with a range of vocabulary to add to their long term memory.

Teaching Phonics

During Autumn and Spring terms staff will be laying the foundations for phonics by:

1. Practicing using ‘pure sounds’.
2. Using Fred Talk to teach oral blending.
3. Teaching children to name the pictures.

In the Summer term staff will start teaching set 1 sounds in preparation for Reception: before starting YR:

- **A new sound** daily for about 15 minutes.
- **Blending to be introduced in small groups** once the children can read all the single letter Set 1 sounds speedily.

Letter formation:

- Children are taught to **form the letters in the air** during the Speeds Sounds lessons.
- If those children who are ready, correct letter formation is taught using a **pencil** and sat at a **table**.