

## Handy Tips for helping your child with phonics

### **Vocabulary List:**

Phoneme - letter sound

Grapheme – how the sound is written

Digraph – sounds written with two letters

Trigraph – sounds written with three letters

Blend – put sounds together to read words

Segment – break words into sounds to spell

### **Ideas for Nursery Children:**

- Play listening games: listen for environmental sounds, animal sounds, musical sounds. What can we hear? Sound Bingo games are commercially available. Avoid distracting background noise – turn off the television! Children need to hear speech clearly to develop their own speech.
- Learn and practise rhymes and songs.
- Learn and practise alliterative sayings e.g. Round the ragged rocks the ragged rascal ran.
- Have fun with making sounds with your voices: animal sounds, machine sounds, funny sounds. Sing songs like 'Old MacDonald had a farm'.
- Speak like a robot breaking words into sounds: 'I a-m a r-o-b-o-t.'

### **Ideas for Reception Children**

- **When saying letter sounds always say the shortest, pure sound** i.e. **not** cuh, buh, just c, b. YouTube has videos of how to pronounce letter sounds:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW\\_v-1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s)
- Practise the letter sounds that your child is learning in class. Check the phonics planning sheets on the website for phonemes covered in each term. Your child can teach you the actions they use in class.
- Speak like a robot, breaking words into sounds: 'c-a-rr-o-t' – can your child work out what you are saying and vice-versa? We call this oral blending and segmenting – it is a crucial skill!
- Make letters or buy magnetic letters – put the letters together to make short words and read them together, blending the letters slowly and then faster until they say the word.
- Practise spelling simple words together: say the word, what sounds can we hear, how do we write these sounds?
- From the second term, start hunting for sounds that are spelt with two letters – while sharing books, looking at magazines, when out and about.
- Make up and practise reading and writing nonsense or 'alien' words.

### **Ideas for Year 1 and 2**

- As for Reception: moving from simple words (e.g. cat, dog) to more complex words (e.g. spot, track, dump, lunch) – looking at the phonics planning for each term will give you letters to make into words.
- Apply spellings patterns by writing silly sentences e.g. the tramp went down to ramp to find a lamp.