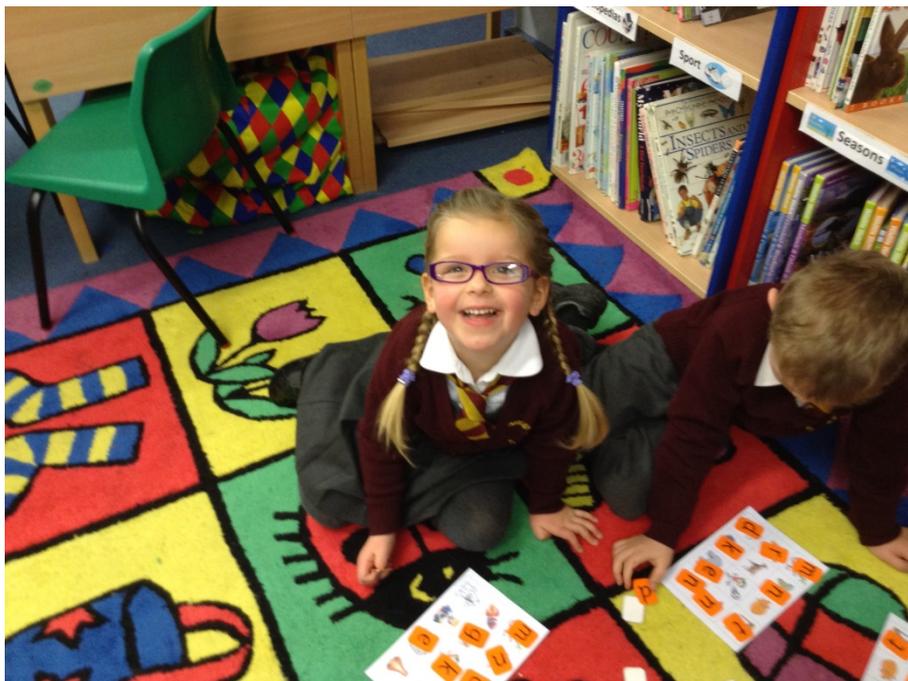


Maids Moreton C.E. School



Phonics Information Guide for Parents



To help your child with the development of their phonic skills at home we have created this phonics information guide so that you can support their learning at home.

How to use flashcards.

Your child's class teacher may send home flash cards from time to time, featuring the sounds your child is currently working on at school, especially in the Reception class. When we feel they are secure with these sounds we will send more home to practise. They are a great way to present and practise letter sounds.

Show your child the letter sound. If they can say it straight away that is great. If not turn the card over and show your child the picture on the back. What is the object? What sound does my mouth say first when I say the word for this picture? Go back

to the letter and repeat the sound it makes. Flashcards need to be used often if they are to help your child, ideally once a day. The idea is to increase the speed at which your child recognises the letter sound without having to see the picture on the reverse.

More flash card activities.

- Reveal the sound. Cover the flash card with a piece of card and slowly reveal it. Your child should guess which sound it is.
- Once the card is shown, say the sound using different intonation and silly voices to keep it fun. Vary the volume too: whisper and shout the words. Your child will automatically copy your voice.
- Alternatively, flip the card over very quickly so your child just gets a quick glimpse. Repeat until they have guessed the sound.
- Stick flash cards around the house. Say one of them and ask your child to point or race to it. You can extend this by saying "hop to the c" or "swim to the f" etc.
- You can also incorporate flash cards into a game of Simon Says. "Simon says, jump to the p" etc.

More phonics games that can be played at home.

1. Mood Sounds

Say a letter sound and ask your child to repeat it. Ask your child to say the sound as if they were angry, happy, frightened etc.

2. Gobbler/Muncher Game

Use a cereal box to make a person. e.g. Gordon the gobbler. Have a large hole for the mouth. Collect a variety of objects beginning with 2 different sounds. Ask your child to select an object from your tray that begins with a certain sound. Children feed the object to the gobbler who replies with an "mmmm" sound if they are correct.

3. Hoop game

Get 2 hoops, trays or plates and place a letter card on each of them e.g. s and a. Have a variety of objects beginning with these 2 sounds. Ask your child to select an object and say the name of it. Repeat it several times and then ask your child to place it on the correct letter tray.

4. Croaker

Introduce a puppet to your child. Explain that it is finding it hard to say some words. Ask your child to select an object out of a bag. The puppet pronounces it incorrectly – maybe missing off the initial or end sound. The children help the puppet say the word correctly emphasising the part of the word that was missing. E.g. the puppet says 'encil' the child can say the word correctly 'pencil' and then the adult can emphasise the 'p' sound that was missing.

5. Rogue Sound Game

Show a variety of objects to your child. All of the objects to have the same initial sound except for one item. Your child should identify which is the rogue item. e.g. sun, sausages, cup, scissors.

6. Bingo

Bingo boards can easily be made to suit the ability of your child. You can use them in a variety of different ways to help your child learn the letters of the alphabet. Make a board containing 6 letters of the alphabet. Then make a set of 6 letter cards that match the board. You can make 2 boards to play a matching game with your child or one of you could be the bingo caller and say the letter on the cards and the other person finds the letter on their board and puts a counter or toy on it. You can just match the letters or you could have some objects to match to the letter boards. Your child can then pick an object and place it on the correct letter to show what sound the object begins with.

NB: When choosing objects around the house to use for sound games ensure that they begin with the single sound that you are working on. For example: tiger train, tags etc.

If you are unsure how to pronounce any of the sounds you can watch a video at the following link:

<http://www.mrthorne.com/44phonemes/>

It is vital to pronounce the sounds correctly to avoid confusing your child!

Online activities

If your child enjoys online activities then the websites below can support them. Please note we can take no responsibility for the content of these websites and suggest that you supervise your child whilst they are using them.

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

Teach your Monster to Read is a series of free games to practise the first stages of phonics and reading. You will need to sign up and register to play for free. This follows the same phonics program that we use at school.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

This website is useful for printable resources and online games, especially the real and nonsense words games. Access to the free games is sufficient to support your child.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

This free website features some of the same games as the website above but also a few extra games to support your child's learning.

If you have any questions about this guide or how we teach phonics in school then please speak to your child's class teacher. An understanding of phonics is vital in enabling your child to learn to read and write and playing these games at home will help them to consolidate and practise the phonic skills they have been acquiring at school. We hope that you will find them useful.