

# Letters and Sounds

In Willow Class, we have daily Phonics sessions that build the skills needed to be able to read and write. At the moment, we are focusing on our listening skills and being able to remember the sounds we have heard.

As we move on, it is the **sound** a letter makes in a word that we are learning, eg. 'o' in dog., rather than their letter **name** that we will be focusing on.

We will practice hearing each sound in words, eg. c-a-t in cat, or b-oo-k in book and being able to **SEGMENT** sounds in words ('sound out') as well as **BLEND** sounds together. We will start learning a sound each day, starting with s a t p.



We learn an action to accompany each sound, as well as do lots of activities related to hearing the sound in words. We will practice writing each sound using the correct letter formation and read simple words (**CVC** words, or consonant-vowel-consonant) such as pin, tap or sit.

We will also begin to learn *tricky words* that cannot be 'sounded out' and need to be learnt as sight vocabulary, for example **the**, and these will be sent home when we have learnt them, for you to practice with your child alongside the sounds.

Each week, the children will receive new sound cards with the actions on the reverse. The children will also have a sound book in which to practice writing these sounds at home, and these will be added to each week. It is really important that these books and the sound cards are in your child's book bag each day please.



As we learn more and more sounds each week, your child will become an expert 'sound spotter' - any occasions where they can spot sounds around them will really help.

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## Sound Cards

You will probably be able to find many ways of using these cards, but here are a few to get you started!

- Say the sound together as you look at the letter shape, and adding the action (your child will be able to teach you actions—we learn Jolly Phonics actions with each sound)
- Look at a sound and think of words that begin with the same sound.
- Select a letter/sound and hunt for it in your reading book or on the back of a cereal packet!
- Say the letter sound and get your child to select the matching letter.
- Take the sounds off the tag and select a few. Ask your child to find two cards and put them in the order that you are saying them. This will lead onto the idea of reading from left to right and blending sounds together to read whole words. For example from a selection of

a p i n

ask your child to find 'a' and 'n' and put them in the order 'a n'. You can then model blending these sounds together to make the word 'an'. Once they get the hang of this extend the idea to blending 3 letters, eg pan.

- Take the cards off the tag and put a selection on the other side of the room.
- Challenge your child to hop, crawl, jump etc to the cards and return with a 'p'.

Not all of these ways of learning may work for your child, if you find one that doesn't don't worry - it is very normal for children to learn in different ways and at different rates!

Please don't think that we will be expecting you to sit for hours at a time and slave over these- a few minutes at a time a few times a week would be great. Please ensure the sound cards and sound books are in your child's book bag each day so that they can be added to.

**Thank you for your continued support, if there is anything that you are unsure of or concerned about please don't hesitate to ask!**