

Parent Support for ELS

Practising the sounds

You can help your child practise the sounds they have been learning at school. Check out the ELS Phase 2, 3 and 5 parent help sheets so you can see the list of sounds in the order they'll be taught. You can show these to your child along with the picture to help them remember.

Blending

After children learn to read some sounds separately, they can start blending them together to form simple words. Take a look at the videos below for ideas on how you can practise word blending with your child.

Reading decodable books

Your child will bring home reading books with words that use the sounds they have been learning that week. You may hear these reading books called 'decodable books'. Use the prompts inside the front and back covers to enjoy the book together and help your child practise reading.

Useful Links

What is phonics?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42jb6PopZCI>

Phonics: How to blend sounds to read words | Oxford Owl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqvqMtSNswo>

Phonics: How to pronounce pure sounds | Oxford Owl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

How else can I support early reading at home?

1. Talk, talk, talk!

As a parent, you are the model of good speaking and listening. Regularly introduce new words (vocabulary). For example, for the word big you could also introduce large, huge, or enormous. Encourage them to say the word too. This is not about reading the words but about your child hearing and saying them.

2. Read to and with your child

This models good reading skills and promotes reading enjoyment. Have a special book box or bag where your child can keep the stories and any other texts, such as comics or non-fiction books, you've read together recently. Re-read these so that over time your child builds up their stock of stories and texts they know well.

Ebooks are another lovely way to share a story or non-fiction book together. Just make sure eBook reading is balanced with reading hard copy books so your child experiences all the different skills required for reading from a page and reading from a screen. Oxford Owl has a free eBook library where you can read together online.

3. Sing!

Teach nursery rhymes and songs and make lots of opportunities to sing and recite them.

4. Pronounce words and sounds clearly

In all games and activities make sure you pronounce the speech sounds clearly and as short as possible. Do not make them too long. For example, the letter 'm' has a short /m/ sound not a continuous /mmmmmmm/ sound. Try not to add an extra sound onto the speech sound too. For example, the sound is /m/ NOT /m-uh/.