

Oral Language & Phonemic Awareness

Daily Activities

Some of these activities should be undertaken at home each day. Research shows that good oral language and phonemic awareness skills support reading development.

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| Eye Spy (first sounds) Play 'Eye Spy' using beginning sounds to guess objects. <i>"I spy with my little eye something beginning with the sound /c/" (eg. cat, cup, carrot)</i> | Changing Sounds Start with a CVC word eg – cat, dog, tip. Ask your child to change, add or remove a sound to make a new word. <i>"Say the word cat. Now change the /c/ sound to a /f/ sound. What is the word now?" (fat)</i> | Simon Says Play a game of Simon Says using simple instructions. <i>"Simon says, put your hands on your head."</i> Players go out if they follow an instruction that did not begin with "Simon says". |
| Word Collecting Ask everyone in your family to look out for interesting words. At the end of the day, take turns sharing your interesting words, where they were found and what they mean. | Alliteration Names Take turns using names to create alliterative sentences. <i>Lovely Lucy likes lollipops.</i> | Guess Who? Take turns describing a person who is known to all players. <i>Describe their appearance, personality, occupation, relationship etc.</i> |
| Give Me 5 Give your child a beginning sound and ask them to name 5 words that start with that sound. | Treasure Hunt Take turns hiding a treasure (small object) somewhere around the house and giving instructions to help find it! | Same/Different Choose two words and ask your child to tell you how they are the same and how they are different. |



Supporting Reading Development

Below are a number of ways to support your child's reading development.

- **Read to your child every day.**
- **Select books together at the library** (the emphasis should not be for your child to memorise stories or being able to read texts independently – read for enjoyment! Talk about the pictures, look for known words or letters, draw pictures of favourite parts etc.)
- **Do not encourage multi-cueing strategies** such as looking at the first letter and guessing or using pictures – these are not strategies used by good readers.
- **Undertake regular oral language and phonemic awareness activities.** Strong oral language skills are important for reading success.
- **Read signs to your child.** Ask them if they know any letters or point out sounds eg. “that has the /s/ sound at the start”.

Some children will pick up letter-sound knowledge faster (or slower) than their peers. It is important not to expect students to do anything they have not be explicitly taught. Please talk to your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's progress.