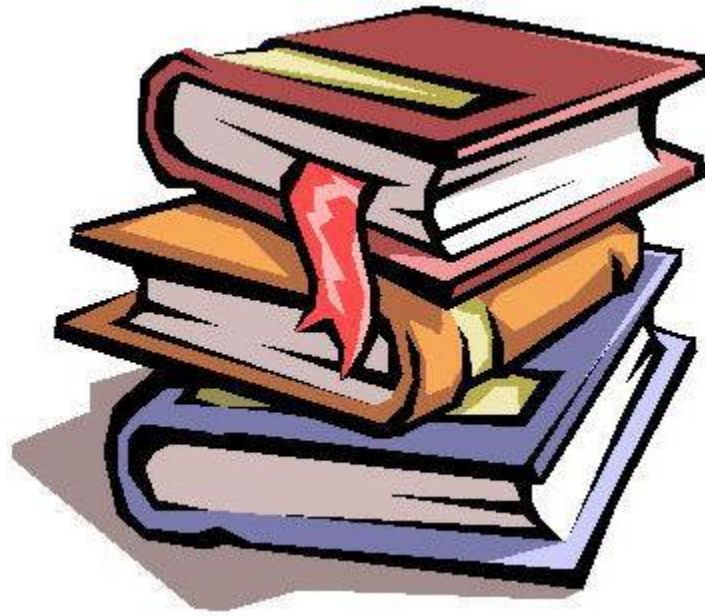


Welcome to Literacy in Early Years



Where do we start?

Many of us take reading for granted, we scan words using skills that have been embedded from a very early age which enable us to read new and unfamiliar words.

Have a look at the following word and as you are reading it, think about the skills you are using to help you.

antidisestablishmentarianism

By using these skills, we break down words into syllables (segment) then blend them back together to be able to read the word.

This is how we begin with the early stages of reading. To young children, the individual letters are just squiggles, phonics teaches them how to decode these squiggles and relate the individual letters to sounds and meaning.

We use the correct technical language from the very beginning, phoneme is what you hear and grapheme is what you see.

At Thorpedene we use the Jolly Phonics scheme and each of the letters are taught in three stages; the letter name that relates to the written form (grapheme), the sound it makes (phoneme) and how to write this with correct formation. This formation is very important and it will eventually lead to the joining of the graphemes.

The order of teaching

The phonemes are taught in phases. Phase 1 is recognition of sounds and language. The individual sounds begin in phase 2 and are taught in this order.

s a t p

l n m d

g o c k/ck e

u r h b f/ff l/l ss

Phase three then continues on with the following sounds;

j v w x y z qu

sh ch th ng ai ee igh oa oo ar or ur ow oi ear air ure er

S/s – sssssss

Slither down the snake

A/a – aaaaaa

Around the apple and down the leaf

T/t – ttttttt

Down the tower and across the bridge

When teaching the sound we need to make sure that we use the pure sound and not add 'er' on to the end. This can cause problems when the children begin to write, as it may affect their spelling.

These phonemes are taught in quick succession, four a week with a recap on a Friday. Once the children have the first four sounds, we can already begin to segment and blend simple words such as s-a-t.

Digraphs and trigraphs

Some you may have noticed that some of the graphemes contained two letters. These are known as digraphs as the two letters combined only make one spoken sound such as 'sh'. Once your child knows these, they will be able to break the word down into the individual phonemes then blend them back together to read the word. For example; ch - i - p when blended makes the word chip.

Some graphemes contain three letters that make one sound such as 'igh' in light and 'air' in chair. This is known as a trigraph and once again, you child will learn these in the specific Jolly Phonic order. It is very important that children are exposed to words containing these digraphs and trigraphs as the more they see them, the more familiar they will become.

Tricky Words

Although phonics supports a majority of words, there will always be anomalies, the English language is certainly one of the trickiest to learn. We make the children aware of this from the very beginning and teach them 'tricky words'. Once again, these are taught in a specific order and the children are taught that they will not be able to sound them out, they just have to know them. Examples of these include the words no, go and said.

Writing

The skill of segmenting is one of the most important when writing. For example, once your child knows the phonemes, they can use their skill of segmenting to attempt to write. At this age, spelling is not the main importance, phonetically plausible attempts are what we would be looking for as this will ensure that your child has a good understanding of phonics.

At Home

There are some simple things you can do at home to support your child's understanding of phonics.

- sound hunts around the house
- Segmenting objects
- Making 'alien' words
- Street names on the way home from school
- Writing shopping lists
- Sharing books, menus newspapers etc.

Helpful websites

- <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
 - <http://mrthorne.com/>
- You tube – look for the Jolly Phonics songs
 - Phonics Play