



Letters and Sounds: principles and practice of high-quality phonics

Phase I

AIMS

- To develop an awareness of Phase 1 Letters and Sounds
- Underline the importance of promoting good speaking and listening skills and phonological awareness
- To take away ideas to use at home

Introduction

- Children learn a great deal from other people.
- As parents and carers, you are your child's first teachers. You have a powerful influence on your child's early learning.



The Spoken Language

- From a very early age, children develop an awareness of the different sounds in our spoken language(s).
- They learn how to use their voices:
 - to make contact with you
 - to let you know what they need
 - to show how they are feeling
- As parents and carers, you best understand your child's communications; you are key in helping them to develop their speaking and listening skills.

EYFS, C&L and Letters and Sounds

- The EYFS sets the standards for learning, development and care
- Good EYFS practice is fundamental to effective C&L in the early years
- Good C&L practice supports and enriches effective EYFS provision
- Letters and Sounds supports the importance of developing speaking and listening skills in a broad and rich language curriculum

What Does C&L Mean to Children

- Building relationships, learning to interact with others so they become skilful, confident communicators
- Being able to differentiate and respond to different sounds and different people
- Developing their individuality; learning to use their voice and feeling safe to express themselves
- Developing their language skills through a multi-sensory approach

The Importance of Speech Sounds

- As children grow older, they will begin to understand the different sounds in languages, and join in with stories, songs, rhymes by clapping, stamping and skipping.
- This is an important stage, as the ears are beginning to tune into the important sounds they can hear, and discriminate.
- Over time, your child will begin to distinguish between different speech sounds (phonemes), and they will match sounds to letters (graphemes). This is called phonic knowledge.

Phase I

- Phase I is made up of 7 different areas:
 - Environmental sounds
 - Instrumental sounds
 - Body percussion
 - Rhythm and rhyme
 - Alliteration (words that begin with the same sound)
 - Voice sounds
 - Oral blending and segmenting

Phase I

- Your child will be learning to:
 - Have fun with sounds
 - Listen carefully
 - Develop their vocabulary
 - Speak confidently to you, other adults and children
 - Tune into sounds
 - Listen and remember sounds
 - Talk about sounds
 - Understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds

Daily Opportunities Within The Setting

- Daily planned speaking and listening activities
- Adult-led activities
- Child-initiated activities
- Exploring and applying within the learning environment
- Developing speaking and listening skills through daily routines

Effective Phase I: Developing the language for Communication Aspect of C&L

- How children learn to listen and speak is essential to them becoming effective and skilful communicators
- To become skilful communicators children need to be provided with opportunity and encouragement to use their skills in a range of situations and for a range of purposes with people whom they know and trust
- Developing speaking and listening skills builds the foundations for literacy

How Can You Help

- Provide your child with lots of different opportunities to speak and listen with others:
 - Preparing meals
 - Tidying up
 - Putting shopping away
 - Getting ready to go out
- Switch off the TV, radio and mobile phones
- Show you are interested in their conversation
- Read stories
- Use puppets and toys



Not all children will learn at the same rate

- Your child should be supported *whatever* their rate of learning
- There is a very close link between *difficulty with phonics* and *hearing*, so if your child is making progress more slowly than expected, it is worth having their hearing checked.

Thank you

