



Phonics School Readiness

Here are some top tips to help your child prepare for school:

- Use letter sounds and not letter names

Teaching the letter sounds first, enables children to quickly begin to read and write as they blend the sounds together. Pronouncing the sounds correctly is vital. A letter sound should be pronounced clearly and distinctly, with no added sounds at the end. For instance, the /p/ sound is pronounced as 'p' and not 'puh'.

Follow this link to hear the correct [PRONUNCIATION](#)

- Don't focus on alphabetical order

Your little one will most likely be learning the following letter sounds first; s, a, t, p, i, n. We teach 'satpin' first as these are very common sounds. When you put these sounds together you can blend and segment them to read and write several simple words – SAT – SIT – PAN – PIN – TIP – TAP. If you learn in order of the alphabet, you won't be able to make as many simple words initially.

- Name Recognition

Recognising their name will help your child find their own peg and draw, making them more independent. This is also an important stage before attempting to write their own name.

- Fine Motor Skills

Developing fine motor skills is vital to help children write, cut, get dressed and manipulate small objects. Children should be given every opportunity to build the strength in their little hands through activities that involve squeezing, pinching and twisting as well as using their hand-eye coordination. They need to train, not only their bodies, but the links between their body and brain.

Examples of activities that promote fine motor development are; playdough, Lego, threading, sand, puzzles and fidget toys.

If these tiny muscles are not fully developed, then pencil grip and control could be challenging.

- Letter Formation

If your child is keen to start writing, they should learn how to form lower case letters first, with the exception of the capital letter at the beginning of their name. Use a lower case print when writing with them and talk through the actions used to form these letters. Capital letters can be discussed, but the emphasis should always be on lower case formation in the early years.

For further information and guidance please take a look at our FAQs and Glossary on our website.