

Early sound awareness

- From an early age children develop awareness of the different sounds in our spoken language. They learn to use their voices to make contact and to let people know what they need and how they are feeling
- As children get older, they begin to understand more about the sounds of our language and they are able to join in with rhymes, songs, clapping, stamping etc. Children learn to tune into the different sounds around them

Playing with sounds

- Playing with and tuning into sounds helps children develop **phonological awareness** – the ability to discriminate different sounds which enables them to be able to hear the different sounds in a word
- Eventually children will learn to match sounds to letters (graphemes) – this is **phonic knowledge** which children will use when they are reading and writing

Phase 1 letters and sounds

Phase One Letters and sounds will help children learn to:

- Have fun with sounds
- Listen carefully
- Develop their vocabulary
- Speak confidently to others
- Tune into sounds
- Listen and remember sounds
- Talk about sounds
- Understand spoken words are made up of different sounds

Phase One aspects

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion
- Rhythm and Rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

- This is all **oral** – children aren't expected to match letters to sounds. The emphasis is on developing the ability to distinguish sounds and create sounds

Environmental Sounds

- Listening walks – what sounds do you hear? Get children to recall later so they are thinking about sounds
- Make sounds using a range of props e.g. running a stick along a fence, tapping on a bin lid
- Play sound lotto (listening to sounds on CD) where children have to identify the sounds e.g. dogs barking, cars revving, birds singing



Instrumental sounds

- Listening to the sounds made by musical instruments and experimenting with changing them
- Making musical instruments e.g. shakers with dried peas, stones etc. Play guess what's inside the shaker
- Sing songs loudly and then softly. Stretch words in familiar songs and add new words or sounds
- Listen to a range of music



Body Percussion

- Learn Action Rhymes e.g. 'wind the bobbin up'
- Clap to familiar rhymes
- Listen to sounds feet make when walking/jumping/stamping etc. Stomp hard in different footwear and compare sounds
- Clapping patterns .. Clap soft/hard. Stomp with feet, tap fingers, click tongue



Rhythm and Rhyme

- Clapping/moving to rhythm of a song/rhyme
- Reading or saying poems, songs, nursery rhymes and rhyming stories
- Use gestures, tap regular beats and pauses to emphasise the rhythm of the piece
- Add percussion to mark the beats using hands, feet, or instruments
- Rhythmic chanting e.g. 2,4,6,8 – hurry up or we'll be late!



Alliteration

- Playing with names e.g. Clever Clare Claps, Max makes music, mummy munches muffins
- Emphasise alliteration in songs e.g. Pied Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers
- Identify the odd one out e.g. cat, cup, boy, car
- Collect items around the nursery that begin with the same sound

Voice Sounds

- Make fun noises or nonsense words
- Say words in different ways – fast, slow, high, low, using a funny voice
- Sing familiar songs only using sounds e.g. La, la, la and ask children to guess the song
- Vary tempo and pitch when reading stories
- Make voices for characters when reading stories

Blending and segmenting

- Oral – not expected to match letter to the sound at this stage
- Confident with all the other aspects of Phase One
- Importance for reading and writing
- Children need to hear the sounds in a word and blend them
- Break down simple words e.g. can you find your h-a-t?

How you can help

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

which is free and will help your child learn to read. There are over 100 free e-books to enjoy with your child and there is a phonics guide which will help you how to say the sounds correctly (look under expert help)

[www. letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com) - look under Phase 1 activities
Lots of fun games to play



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Letters and Sounds' website. At the top, the title 'Letters and Sounds' is written in large, colorful letters. Below it, the URL 'www.letters-and-sounds.com' and the text 'Free resources for Letters and Sounds phonics' are visible. An advertisement for a Toshiba Enshu 5GB USB Flash Drive is shown, priced at £8.99. A navigation menu includes links for 'Phonics Games', 'Spelling Games', 'Fun Reading Games', and 'Play Animal Games'. The main content area is titled 'Phase 1 Games' and includes a description of the free online games, a 'Sound Starter' section with a grid of yellow bubbles, and a sidebar with numbered buttons for 'Free Homework Help', 'Math', 'English', and a fourth button.

