



Join your child in their play to extend their talk and enrich their vocabulary.



Pretend play inspires children to use language for a range of purposes, e.g. set up a shop, dress up as a police officer etc.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact :

Letters & Sounds



Children enjoy experimenting with the sounds different objects can make.



Asking open questions such as, 'What does it feel like to be in the tunnel?' encourages children to use language.

Environmental Sounds

Letters & Sounds

In Early Years settings children learn Communication & Language (CL) and Literacy (L) through lots of hands-on, play based activities.

To support the teaching of CLL many settings use a phonics teaching programme called Letters and Sounds. This is split into 6 phases.

Phase 1

Phase 1 is vitally important as it lays the foundations for reading and writing. During this on-going phase your child will learn to:

- have fun with sounds
- listen carefully
- speak confidently to adults and children
- develop their vocabulary
- tune into sounds
- listen and remember sounds
- talk about sounds
- understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds



Making large movements with swirling ribbons helps to develop physical skills necessary for writing.

Environmental Sounds

This is part of Phase 1 and helps children tune into sounds around them. You can support your child by trying some of the ideas below. The activities should be fun, so give your child plenty of encouragement and cuddles when you play with them. Smiles and praise will help them develop a sense of achievement and build their confidence - a vital skill for future learning

Phase 1 activities are all oral (spoken) - your child does not have to match letters to sounds at this stage. The emphasis here is on distinguishing between sounds, creating sounds, and talking about sounds.

Explore with children the sounds different animals make, including imaginary ones such as dragons.



Ways you can support your child at home

- **Go on a listening walk** - See how many sounds you can hear as you are walking: birds singing, wind blowing, trees rustling, dogs barking. How many sounds can you remember when you get home? You could make a picture of all the different sounds.
- **Play in the garden** - Use sticks or old spoons. Make sounds by running a stick along a wall or fence, or tap on a plant pot or dustbin. Which is your favourite sound?
- **Sound shakers** - Use old plastic bottles or old socks (tie them at the top) to make sound shakers - put soil, salt or pasta inside to make different sounds. Sing a rhyme as you play them.
- **Hide it** - Put noisy household objects behind your back e.g. keys, crisp packet - make a sound and see if your child can guess which one you are using.

Remember: Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing