



Jolly Phonics

About Jolly Phonics

Jolly Phonics is a thorough foundation for reading and writing. It uses the synthetic phonics method of teaching the letter sounds in a way that is fun and multi-sensory. Children use the letter sounds to read and write words.

Learning the letter sounds

In Jolly Phonics the 42 main sounds of English are taught, not just the alphabet. Each sound has an action which helps children remember the letter(s) that represent it. As a child progresses you can point to the letters and see how quickly they can do the action and say the sound. One letter sound is taught each week.

Children should learn each letter by its sound, not its name. For example, the letter a should be called a (as in ant) not ai (as in aim). Similarly, the letter n should be nn (as in net), not en. This will help in blending. The names of each letter can follow later.

The letters are not introduced in alphabetical order. For example, the first group is s, a, t, i, p, n. These letters make simpler three-letter words than any other six letters. The letters b and d are introduced in different groups to avoid confusion.

Ways in which we reinforce the letter sounds

The children are asked to bring something from home that starts with the letter sound for that week to share with their classmates. This activity helps to reinforce the letter sound and gives the children an opportunity to practice their speaking skills.

We have also created a picture based Jolly Phonics bingo game for the children to play. There are 42 sets of cards, each set representing a different letter sound. The letter sound for each set occupies the center space of the card. Other objects that begin with the same letter sound occupy the other spaces on the card. The children take turns drawing cards from a jar until a player gets a bingo. In addition to reinforcing the letter sounds, the game builds vocabulary, strengthens attention span, and encourages cooperative learning. This game has proven to be a big hit at City of Little Saints!