

# How to build your child's skills in phonics...

## Reading

Read lots of books and often. Read to your child, read print in the environment and allow them to look through books independently.

When reading at home, key vocabulary to use when reading an unfamiliar word is

“Segment” a word

e.g. The word is cat, if you segment it you say each letter sound separately “c-a-t”.

“Blend” a word.

e.g. The word is cat, you've said the sounds c-a-t and now you read the sounds together again “cat”.

## Writing

When writing, encourage children to make marks, give meaning to what they have written and to write down the sounds they can hear.

When your child is ready to represent phonemes (the sounds they hear in words), they will start by being able to recognise the initial or first sound only. As your child becomes more confident, they will start to represent the other sounds in a word too.

Progression in using phonics within writing

1. Encourage your child to hear and say the initial sound in a word
2. Ask your child to write the initial sound, you then write the other letters in the word as you say the sounds out loud to them
3. Once your child is secure in this, encourage them to say and then write the sounds they hear in the whole word
4. Praise them for having a go at representing the sounds with letters, even if they are incorrect to start with
5. Continue to model segmenting a word orally as your child writes the word. Encourage them to use the sound mat or a copy of the alphabet to help them to find the correct letter.

Useful Weblinks to support the teaching of phonics at home:

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

“Mr Thorne Does Phonics” using [www.youtube.co.uk](http://www.youtube.co.uk)

How to say the sounds correctly...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE&feature=related>