



# Early reading and writing skills



# Getting started

**Sharing books**— always remember that we teach phonics to help our children learn to read and write and in order to do this successfully they need to love books! The best way to help your child is to read as many books as possible. Read anything that your child is interested in (including magazines, menus etc). Remember to use silly voices, act things out, talk about what you can see, talk about what you both think and feel and have fun!

**Talk time**—encourage your child to tell you what they have done at school today. Sharing new songs and rhymes is something that you can easily do when you are busy with something else e.g. cooking, cleaning, driving in the car.

**Give everything a name**—build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example "Look at that aeroplane! Those are the wings. They are huge, gigantic, enormous!"



**Looking for letters**—ask your child to look for letters while you are out and about. Can they find the letters from their name?

**Matching pairs**—you will need: small pieces of card with the words your child is currently learning written on each. Each word needs to be written twice so that matching pairs can be found. Turn all the cards face down on the table and take turns to turn over two cards. When a matching pair is found that player can keep them.



# Games to play

## Oral blending games

**Robotic talking**—words are made up from sounds and children need to hear these sounds individually. Try saying words as if you were a robot (using letter sounds) and see if your child can work out the word.

E.g. pass the p-i-g to me.

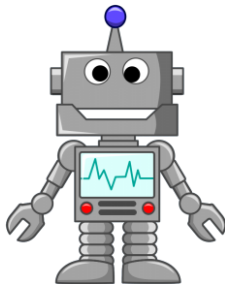
Brush your t-ee-th

Hop like a f-r-o-g

**I spy**— ‘I spy with my little eye something beginning with .....

**Point out print everywhere**—talk about the written words you see in the world around you.

**Playing with words**—encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat.



# General tips

**Once is never enough**—encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems as well as their reading book. Re-reading helps children to read more quickly and accurately.

**Dig deeper into the story**—ask your child questions about the story you have just read. Say something like, “Why do you think he did that?”

**Be patient**—when your child is trying to sound out unfamiliar words, give them time to do so. Remind them of strategies they can use e.g. robot arms

**Pick books that are at the right level**—help your child to pick books that are not too difficult. The aim is to give your child lots of successful reading experiences.

**I read to you, you read to me**— take turns reading aloud at bedtime. Children enjoy this special time with their parents.

