



Phonics is fun!

At Wallace Road Nursery School, we use the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme that teaches children to listen to sounds, respond to sounds with their voices, look for patterns in sounds and spot sounds in words. As the children progress, they begin to focus on words with the same sounds at the start of each word and then begin to segment (for spelling) and blend (for reading). All children take part in 3 planned sessions every week. There are opportunities to consolidate the skills taught through our continuous provision and activities built into the daily routine. All learning in phonics is done through rhymes, stories and games.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading matching sounds to letters and groups of letters.

The English alphabet writing system has only 26 letters to write the 44 English speech sounds. This means that the same letter, or groups of letters, can represent more than one sound. For example:

The letter 'a' as in 'cat' can also be used to write ay in 'angel'.

The letter 'i' as in 'pin' can also be used to write the sound 'igh' in 'find'.

Before children can start to read, they need to learn to:

- Say the sound that is represented by each letter and group of letters,
- 'sound out' words, e.g. c-a-t; t-i-n; sh-i-p.

Pure sounds

When teaching children to say the sounds, it's important to say the pure sounds. This means that we say *mmmm* not *muh* and *lllll* not *luh*. This will really help children when they come to join sounds together to read words, because it's easier to put 'm-a-t' together than 'muh-a-tuh'.

Activities to support learning phonics at Wallace Road Nursery School include:

- storytelling;
- singing songs;
- listening to rhymes and repeating patterns and refrains;
- playing alliterative games;
- using creative language in role play, drama and dance;
- identifying sounds in names, words in the environment etc.

Writing

When children are ready, we teach pencil grip and help them to practice writing letters with the correct formation.