

Guidance for Nursery

Talk-a-lot, read-a-lot nurseries

Nursery rhymes and storytime

- The main focus in nursery classrooms should be **reading stories and rhymes to children** and **developing their language**.
- We should spend **three times as much time reading stories to children** as we spend teaching phonics.
- **Plan the nursery rhymes and stories** you will sing and read over and over again - use the same actions and special emphasis every time.
- **Role play together** - once the children know a story very well, put all the children in role as one character and the teacher as the interviewer.
- Use **'ten top tips for reading stories'** and share with parents.

Planning talk throughout the day

- Organise small group sessions throughout the day to ensure children talk as much as possible.
- **Plan the words and talk associated with the play**- this helps to make the most of the adults' time when working alongside children.
- Plan to **use a range of words and phrases** with similar, but slightly different, shades of meaning (synonyms).
- Write the words on sticky notes to remind you to use the words throughout play.
- Teach grammar and vocabulary by **building sentences orally throughout the day** – about pictures, real objects, children's paintings etc.
- Use TOL to build their ideas into a sentence, then repeat MTTT.
- **Use forced alternatives** to provide children with language rather than just noting down what they do say.

Teaching Phonics

Before starting to teach Set 1 sounds:

1. Practise using 'pure sounds'.
2. Use Fred Talk to teach oral blending.
3. Teach children to name the pictures.

Start teaching sounds in the term before starting YR:

- Teach **a new sound every day** for about 15 minutes.
- Choose a time of the day when children are at their most alert.
- **Don't let phonics teaching interfere in other areas of learning** - avoid painting letters, finding letters in the sand. Let children enjoy the integrity of each experience.
- **Start teaching children to blend in small groups** once the children can read all the single letter Set 1 sounds speedily.

Letter formation:

- Teach children to **form the letters in the air** during the Speeds Sounds lessons.

- If you choose to teach children to write in the nursery, **teach** them the **correct pencil grip** and **sitting position** from the very beginning. Children should always **sit at tables** for writing so you can set these **habits**.
- Help children practise writing letters at a **different time of the day in small groups**, or as individuals.