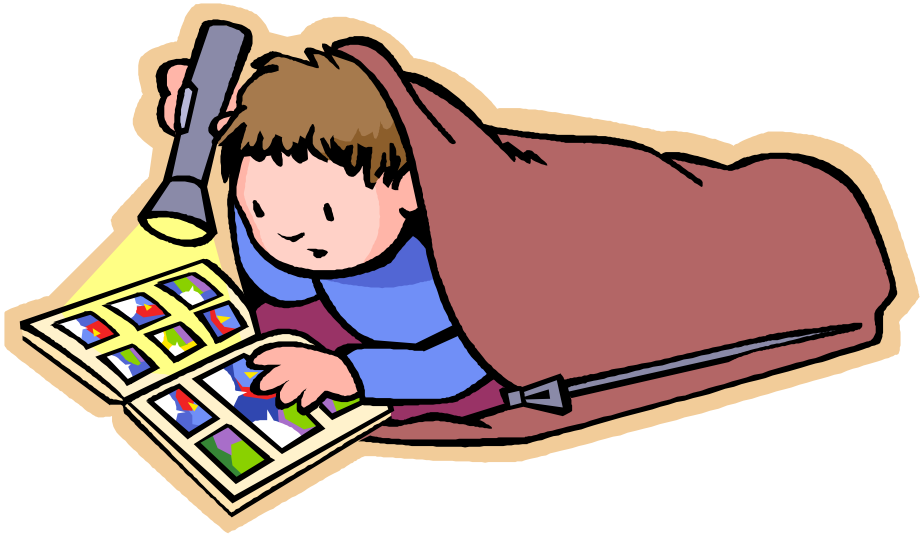
We always say "I CAN"

Reinwood
Infant & Nursery School

Making phonics fun!



Phonics refers to a method of teaching children to read and write the English Language. It is a key skill that your child will begin to learn in Reception. It takes children's language from their spoken vocabulary and transforms it into words which can be written and read.

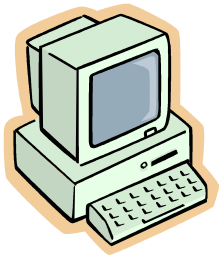
Each week at school, your child will learn new letter sounds which they will be exploring and practising in the classroom. Parents and carers can help at home by reading the phonics file and asking children about songs and words they have learned for each letter.

As children learn the sounds, they begin to **blend** them together for reading (e.g. c….a….t, cat) and **segment** words into sounds for writing (what does cat begin with – c). This is a vital step in children's learning and will continue to develop throughout their school careers.

This booklet is designed to give you some useful ideas about how you can help to make a fantastic start on that long journey of learning.

The computer

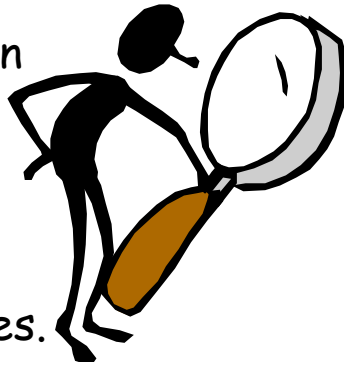
There are many commercially-produced programs for the computer. However, if you have access to the internet, **www.bbc.co.uk/schools** is an excellent site that has many useful phonics games in a range of subjects that are suitable for your child. Oxford owl and www.ictgames.com also have some good ideas.



Out and about

The old favourites are still amongst the best!

- Making letter shapes with ribbons – particularly on a windy day! Can you guess what letter they have drawn?
- Save old washing-up liquid bottles, fill them with water and make letter shapes on the ground with them.
- Can they find letters when they are out shopping? Which names of shops can they read?
- Hopscotch outside with letters to land on instead of numbers.
- Writing letters in the sand pit or soil.
- Making letter shapes out of leaves/stones.



Games to play inside

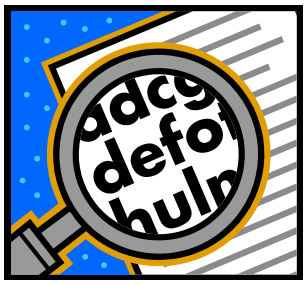
- Letters everywhere – on the stairs, around the house. Can they be detectives and find the ones you say or show them? Make it into a treasure hunt game. The more they see the letters, the more they will remember them.
- Letters as passwords for entering rooms.
- Playing snap with letter sounds.

- I-spy games.
- In the bath – ping pong balls/sponge letters for them to fish out with letters on or on the bottom of ducks.
- Letter moods – can you say letters in different ways (sad/happy/excited etc.)?
- Trays of paint, rice, shaving foam, lentils etc. to have a go at writing letter shapes. Messy, but fun!
- Make up sound sentences with your child's name using alliteration - e.g. Jodie's jelly is juicy.
- Tidy-up time – can you put all the toys beginning with 's' in the toy box?
- Use a puppet that keeps getting things wrong. Can they help correct him? E.g. show a picture of a cat and the puppet says, 'cut'.
- Remember to read, read and read some more!
- Make some flashcards and ask your child to test you on the sounds.

Baking

There are many rich opportunities to be had with baking:

- Reading and following a recipe together. What happens if you read a word wrong?!
- Making biscuits in the shape of letters or icing letters on to them.
- Salt dough letters as decorations to hang on doors - e.g. your child's name.
- Have fun making food in to different letters of the alphabet, such as bread!



Newspaper and Magazines

- Can they find objects beginning with a particular letter sound? How many can they find in one minute?
- Number Challenge – can you find five objects beginning with a 's' sound?
- Making a 'Sound Book'. Can they find something for every letter of the alphabet to cut out and stick in their books?
- Cutting out letters to make words. Set challenges.

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher.