

Tips for helping your child with Phonics

Top Tips for Phonics

Counting beats in words

Knowing how to divide beats (syllables) in a word helps speed up the blending to read. It can also help with spelling longer words. Start with clapping challenges. Whose name in the family has the most beats? Ask your child to clap with you as you say words like, 'wonderful' or 'communication'. Next step is to ask your child to clap the beats in words by themselves. Start with two or three beat words and build up e.g air plane, ta ble, por cu pine, tel e vi sion.

Counting sounds in words

This is a listening and speaking skill so your child doesn't need to be reading a word just listening to you say a word. You need to have the skill to hear the sounds in words to blend to read and to spell unless you are using your memory. How many sounds are there in 'shop' ? Shop has 3 sounds even though it has 4 letters. Collect pictures from magazines or catalogues and make collections. What is the longest word your child can sound count?

Say the sounds correctly

Remember not to add an 'er' to sounds e.g mer-a-ter = mat

When you read ask your child to find letters they know

Buy magnetic letters for your child to make words and ask your child what they are doing in phonics at school or ask their teacher.

Websites - Lots of phonic games to play

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk
- www.letters-and-sounds.com