

Literacy Information Summary

- ◆ Use letter sounds, not names and keep sounds pure – do not allow children to add an “uh” at the end of sounds
- ◆ Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q> for a phoneme pronunciation guide
- ◆ Assist children in their blending attempts, counting each sound on fingers as you do so. Lengthening the middle sound often helps children who are struggling to blend the sounds together.
- ◆ Read to your child whenever possible. If you want to know why, read Jeremy Strong’s top tips for reading with children, as he explains the benefits far more eloquently than I ever could!
- ◆ Listen to your child read and praise constantly, even if it’s been hard work!!
- ◆ Allow your child to look at the pictures as these often give vital clues as to what the writing may say. If your child says a word that is credible, but not what is in the text (eg. says the word “boat” when reading the word “ship”), point out the initial sound and ask if the word they used could be correct and then proceed to blend the sounds together.
- ◆ Do not worry if your child has memorised the text, but do ensure they are able to point to each word in turn as they say them, ensuring they understand that one written word corresponds to one spoken word.
- ◆ Practise reading the word cards daily, reminding your child if it’s a “tricky” word that simply cannot be sounded out and playing games (such as memory pairs, snap and hunting for words in storybooks) with these words if your child is finding them hard to learn.
- ◆ When writing, assist children in their segmenting attempts, again counting each sound on fingers as you do so.
Writing sound buttons (one grapheme representing one phoneme) and lines (where 2 or more graphemes represent one phoneme) can help a child to segment – eg. writing ●● — for a child who wants help writing the word ‘duck’
- ◆ Do not worry if your child writes the wrong grapheme in a word – eg. writes “plait” for the word “plate”. Phonetic writing (writing the way something sounds) is what we’re aiming for in Reception!
- ◆ Help children to write their names with correct letter formation.
Air-writing is a good way to practise forming letters, using a pointy finger to show the correct way that a pencil should move.
- ◆ Above all else, praise your child unconditionally for any and all reading and writing attempts. They are already amazing, and they are only going to get better 😊