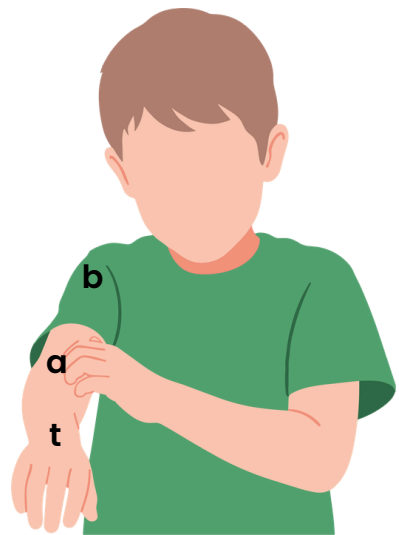


Top Tips

Supporting Phonics at Home!



At school we use Jolly Phonics. Children learn:

- A sound for each letter
- An action and song to help them remember the sound
- How to form each letter correctly
- How to blend sounds together to read words



1 Sounds

- Practise the sounds regularly
- Ask your child to say the sound, not the letter name. For example, s → "ssssss" while pretending to weave a snake
- Encourage them to use the Jolly Phonics action and song they have learned
- Singing Jolly Phonics songs (available on YouTube)

2 Letter formation

- Encourage your child to start letters in the correct place
- Remind them to use the correct pencil grip
- Use different materials to make writing fun, such as:
 - Sand
 - Shaving foam
 - Paint
 - Chalk
 - Whiteboards

3 Blending

Blend sounds to read words

- Help your child say each sound and then blend them together
- c - a - t → cat
- d - o - g → dog
- At school, we tap each sound on our arm and then slide the sounds together to read the whole word. Encourage your child to use this strategy at home too



4 Reading

- Read together as much as possible
- Share books, stories, signs and labels
- Point out sounds your child knows
- Encourage them to spot letters and words around them
- Re-read favourite stories to build confidence and fluency

Things to try at home

- Sound hunts around the house
- Matching sounds to pictures
- Spotting sounds and letters during walks
- Playing pairs/memory games with letters, sounds or pictures
- Making simple snap games using letter cards
- Playing online phonics games such as PhonicsPlay, Topmarks, or Teach Your Monster to Read
- Watching Alphablocks on BBC iPlayer to reinforce sounds and blending skills
- Playing "I Spy" using sounds instead of letter names (e.g. "I spy something beginning with s")
- Finding objects around the house that start with a particular sound
- Clapping the sounds in simple words before blending them together