



Remind children of rhymes
they know as they are
playing.
Miss Polly had a dolly ...!



Enjoying and sharing
books leads to children
seeing them as a source
of pleasure and interest.

Letters & Sounds



Children enjoy listening to
rhymes and inventing
their own.



Rhythm & Rhyme

Letters & Sounds

In Early Years settings children learn Communication, Language and Literacy (CLLD) through lots of hands-on, play-based activities.

To support the teaching of CLLD, many settings use a phonics teaching programme called Letters and Sounds. This is split into 6 phases.

Phase 1

Phase 1 is vitally important as it lays the foundations for reading and writing. During this ongoing phase your child will learn to:

- have fun with sounds
- listen carefully
- speak confidently to adults and children
- develop their vocabulary
- tune into sounds
- listen and remember sounds
- talk about sounds
- understand that spoken words are made up of different sounds



Making patterns in sand, salt or shaving foam is great fun and will help your child to develop physical skills necessary for writing.

Rhythm & Rhyme

This part of Phase 1 has two parts. The first is rhythm - clapping syllables in words, keeping the beat and being able to copy a rhythm. The second is rhyme - developing awareness of words that rhyme and producing their own rhyming words - made up or real.

You can support your child by trying some of the ideas below. The activities should be fun, so give your child plenty of encouragement and cuddles when you play with them. Smiles and praise will help them develop a sense of achievement and build their confidence - a vital skill for future learning



Phase 1 activities are all oral (spoken) - your child does not have to match letters to sounds at this stage.

Children need to build a stock of rhymes through hearing them repeated over and over again.

Ways you can support your child at home:

- **In the Garden** Take a bowl and wooden spoon outside and play different rhythms. Help the children to listen first and then move in time to the beat – fast, slow, skipping, marching, galloping. This is a good one to do with friends.
- **Make it up** Make up your own chanting rhymes for daily routines eg. 2, 4, 6, 8 hurry up or we'll be late, 1,2,3,4 eat it up and then there's more
- **Nursery Rhymes** Say some nursery rhymes that you both know and make up a different ending. Eg Humpty Dumpty sat on a box, Humpty Dumpty saw a ...
- **Guess the name** Make up rhyming sentences eg I know a girl who is holding a brolly, she is in the park and her name is...Molly.
- **Clapping games** Clap the syllables of phrases or words eg Beans on toast, beans on toast, or Je-ssi-ca, Je-ssi-ca.

Remember: Speaking and listening are the foundations for reading and writing