

Most important thing - From a very early age

- Talking and Listening.
- Reading with and to your child
- Playing listening games
- Singing songs and rhymes
- Simple movement games

All these things will help to build up connections in the brain, an enjoyment of language and confidence to try things out.

#### **PHONICS**

- · Correct pronunciation (eg. sss not suh)
- Correct vocabulary
- We all need to use the same language at home and at school.
- Little and often is the key. Does not have to be formal.
- Link it to your child's interests.



### PHONEME

• The smallest unit of sound in a word.

• There are 44 phonemes that we teach.



## The 44 phonemes

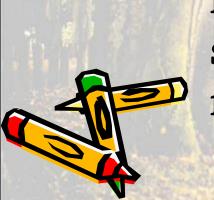
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### GRAPHEME

· Letters representing a phoneme

e.g. c ai igh

Children need to practise recognising the grapheme and saying the phoneme that it represents.



### BLENDING

- Recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example c-u-p and merging or 'blending' them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word 'cup'
- Use your phonic fingers



### SEGMENTING

Chopping Up' the word into its separate sounds

The opposite of blending

· Use your 'robot arms'



## Segment and Blend these words...

- drep
- blom
- gris





## Once children are good with single phonemes...

DIGRAPHS – 2 letters that make 1 sound
11 ss zz oa ai

TRIGRAPHS – 3 letters that make 1 sound
igh air



## Segmenting Activity

 Use your 'robot arms' to say how many phonemes in each word.

- Shelf
- dress
- sprint
- string



### Did you get it right?

$$shelf = sh - e - 1 - f = 4 phonemes$$

$$dress = d - r - e - ss = 4 phonemes$$

$$sprint = s - p - r - i - n - t = 6 phonemes$$

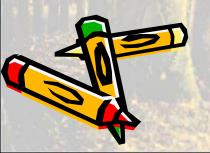
$$string = s - t - r - i - ng = 5 phonemes$$



### TRICKY WORDS

Words that are not phonically decodeable

- e.g. was, the, I.
- Some are 'tricky' to start with but will become decodeable once we have learned the harder phonemes
- e.g. out, there,



# Now you have the knowledge....

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise get them to have a 'good guess'.
- Ask your child's teacher if you want to know more.



## Useful websites

- www.parentsintouch.co.uk
- www.jollylearning.co.uk/
- www.focusonphonics.co.uk/
- http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/readingsite/expert-help/phonics-made-easy

