



SpeechWise

What the Phonics?

A Guide for Parents

Phonics teaches children how spoken word sounds are shown as letters in written words. This helps them read, spell, and understand how words are structured.



Why is phonics important?

- It connects talking and reading: two big parts of learning language.
- It helps children decode (figure out) new and unfamiliar words.
- It builds spelling and writing skills.

How you can help at home

- **Listen for sounds:** Play games with rhyming words or guess what sound a word starts with.
- **Say sounds clearly:** Get down to the child level and look at them when talking. Keep sounds short - say “sss” not “suh”, “t” not “tuh”.
- **Look at simple words together:** Point to letters and say the sound each one makes.
- **Have fun with sounds:** Sing songs, make silly noises, and enjoy words together.

Remember some children find phonics difficult because their brains don't naturally pick up the links between sounds and letters. Talk to your child's teacher if your child is struggling.

Want more ideas? Visit our **SpeechWise Parent Hub** for videos and tips on supporting your child's language development at home!