

Phonics

So how did we learn to read if we didn't 'do'
phonics?

Well we did use phonics...

Analytical phonics

- Learn **whole words** (sight vocabulary)
- Start to see **similarities** like the same initial letter (c in cat and c in cub)
- See spelling patterns (say, pay, may ..called onset and rime)
- Use what we know to break down new words

Synthetic phonics

- The synthetic bit relates to synthesising or **blending**
- **Letter sounds** are learnt with most frequently used first (s a t p i n or m a s t d)
- Words are made by **blending** them together
- Sounds are clearly **articulated**

In summary...

- we used to teach reading by teaching whole words first
- we now teach using component sounds first
- in reality.....good readers use both the above methods and many other strategies

So how can you help?

- Make sure that the **'ear'** is **ready for phonics** by reading to your child lots
- Point out and play with rhyme
- Clap out syllables in words
- Make up alliterative sentences
- Say phrases with missing bits (e.g. Fish and chips without saying 'ch')
- I spy with my little eye...

What else?

- Learn how to say all the sounds correctly
- The Oxford Owl website has a video demonstration on how to say the sounds
- Know the difference between a letter and a sound
- **a letter** is one of the 26 written elements of the alphabet
- **a sound** is a single voiced element which may be made up using one or more letters (e.g. m & igh are both sounds)

The alphabetic code...

- When we say that children can ***decode*** what we mean is that they can use the alphabetic code to work out how to read new words.
- This is tested at the end of year one when every child will sit a phonics assessment comprising 20 real words and 20 nonsense words.

ai

- ai
 - ay
 - aCCe
 - ae
 - aCe
 - ey
 - ea
 - eigh
 - eigh
- Paid
 - Tray
 - Cable
 - Sundae
 - Made
 - Prey
 - Great
 - Weight
 - Straight



and.....

- Don't make the common mistake of thinking the letter names refer to capital or upper case letters and letter sounds relate to lower case letters
- Remember that you child's visual memory will play a big part in remembering what all the letters look like