

USE PURE SOUNDS

Avoid adding the /uh/ sound to the end of letter sounds and encourage your child to do the same. By doing this you will produce the pure sound and your child will find it much easier to blend the sounds to read words.

suh-u-nuh → sss-u-nnn

Phonics Tips for Parents

DON'T START ALPHABETICALLY

Your child will not learn the letter sounds in alphabetical order. We will start with s a t p i n. Teaching in this order means that your child can start to blend sounds together to read simple words almost immediately. Many more simple words can be made with these letters rather than a b c d e f

USE LOWER CASE WHEN WRITING

The words that your child learns to read, both on flashcards and in books, will be in lowercase. Only teach your child to use a capital letter for the beginning of their name, not entirely written in capital letters.

USE LETTER SOUNDS NOT NAMES

Phonics is the prime approach to teaching your child to read. This means they need to learn to match the written letter with the **SOUND** it makes so they can put these sounds together to read words. You can not do this by saying the letter names.

SOUND OUT AND BLEND WORDS

Encourage early readers to sound out words into their separate sounds and blend these sounds together to read. They will need to spot when two or three letters are working together to make one sound too.

Digraph: two letters that make one sound

Trigraph: three letters that make one sound

READ, READ, READ!

Whenever possible let your child see you reading for different purposes. This will really influence your child's attitude to reading. Reading for pleasure is a key predictor of later academic success. Try to read the book sent home from school every day,

READING MATTERS!

The ability to read is fundamental to learning and absolutely affects the chances children get in life. We want **ALL** children at Sherwood to succeed and this will only happen if there is a **PARTNERSHIP** between teaching phonics in school and the support a child gets at home. Remember, reading should be **FUN** and not a chore. Making things into a short game is better than doing nothing at all. Little and often is key!

