

READING WITH JOLLY PHONICS.

What is Phonics?

It is a method of teaching reading using sounds.

Why is reading important?

A lot of information is written. You need reading for all subjects from learning to read to reading to learn! People who can read have more chances of getting jobs.

Why learning to read with Jolly Phonics?

It has been proven that children learn to read better with Jolly Phonics than the methods that are used in schools. Instead of learning letter names, they learn to use the sounds and read by blending so that they can read (decode) new words. With Jolly phonics children learn the sounds, formation, actions, songs and games. This makes learning fun and more creative which motivates the children. This method involves teaching reading with writing. It is important to teach in different ways because children learn by hearing, seeing, doing, exploring, playing, singing, etc and Jolly phonics caters for all learning styles.

Jolly Phonics teaching is divided into five basic skills.

The first four skills are taught simultaneously from the beginning and the fifth skill, learning the tricky words, is taught after the first few weeks.

1. Learning the letter sounds.

They are 42 letter sounds, divided in 7 groups. These letter sounds are taught at a rate of one sound per day. Each sound is introduced with a story from the Jolly Phonics teachers' book or the hand book, action, songs and games. After teaching the first letter group (s, a, t, i, p, n) the children can form and read several words. That motivates them, they want to learn more.

2. Learning letter formation.

Teach the children how the letter is written. This can be done by showing the formation on the board, in the air, using dotted letters provided in the pupils' books, using the finger phonics books or using the Jolly Phonics DVD. Also put emphasis on the basic letter knowledge needed for good handwriting.

3. Reading (blending)

Reading is blending sounds together to form the word e.g s-a-t = sat. The Phonic skill for this is to look at the letters, say the sounds and hear the word.

Practice this skill continuously for successful reading.

Blending activities that can help to develop this skill are:- auditory blending, silent blending, whole class blending practice e.t.c

NB: Letter names cannot be blend! So, don't use the letter names before the children can read.

4. Identifying sounds in words.

This is the main skill needed for writing. Children hear each sound in a word and then write the letters for these sounds. This is where we taste the phonemic awareness of the children. i.e. does the child know whether the sound comes at the beginning, in the middle or at the end of the word.

- Children are taught to identify the individual sounds in spoken words.
- Activities for developing this skill:
 - Holding up a finger for each sound and this known as segmenting.
 - Dictation
 - Singing songs
 - Reciting rhymes
 - Chopping game
 - Words with in word etc

5. Trick words:

These are irregular words e.g to , the, we, be, said, etc or are frequently used words that can only be read with phonic knowledge that has not yet been taught e.g my , like, all etc.

Jolly Phonics teachers book shows the different methods of teaching tricky words.

Conclusion:

Children need variety of activities. It will motivate them to learn. Research has shown that children learn better when they are active and have fun in what they do in a meaningful setting.

Play games with the whole group or in small groups.

Be creative!

It will work!

Have fun!

