

# Phonics Level 1 Parent Pack

## What is phonics?

Phonics is the process of learning to read and spell using specific letters or sounds. These letters and sounds combine to create words that can be broken down or blended together in order to read or spell them.

## What is included in Level 1?

Level 1 is the beginning of a child's phonics journey and will help to develop a foundation for reading and spelling. Within Level 1, children learn about oral sounds and the emphasis is on listening and recognising these. Children are not expected to be able to recognise any written letters or sounds until Level 2.

Level 1 is broken down into seven different aspects which are taught alongside each other. Each of the different aspects relates to different sounds that children will learn about.

## What are the 7 aspects of Level 1?

Aspect 1: General Sound Discrimination - Environmental Sounds

Aspect 2: General Sound Discrimination - Instrumental Sounds

Aspect 3: Body Percussion

Aspect 4: Rhythm and Rhyme

Aspect 5: Alliteration

Aspect 6: Voice Sounds

Aspect 7: Oral Blending and Segmenting

## What is included in Level 1?

During Level 1, the emphasis is on children listening to and identifying different sounds that they can hear, such as environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion and voice sounds. They should also be able to discriminate between sounds that they can hear.

Once children are familiar with oral sounds, they may notice some patterns, such as rhythm and rhyme - at this stage, this will be as simple as listening to a nursery rhyme or song. They will begin to recognise sounds that have the same initial sound, such as 'apple' and 'ant'. Once they begin to recognise specific letter sounds, they will begin to orally blend and segment words by recognising the individual sounds within a word, e.g. 'c-a-t - cat'.

## How can I support my child's understanding of Level 1 phonics?

To support your child with Level 1 phonics, you can expose them to lots of learning opportunities that involve listening, such as going on a listening walk or listening to a song or nursery rhyme.

### Here are some activities that you could try at home with your child:

Go on a listening walk with your child around the house, garden or local area. Listen carefully to any environmental or voice sounds that you can hear.	Listen to and join in with songs and nursery rhymes.
Play some simple listening games that involve music or sounds, such as Musical Bumps.	Use a rhyming string, e.g. Say 'cat, mat, hat...' and challenge your child to think of another rhyming word. Alternatively, you can listen to rhyming stories and try to guess what word is coming next.
Listen to music.	Have fun with alliteration - make puppets and think of some names to call them using alliteration, e.g. 'Simon the Slimy Snake'.
Use instruments to make your own music. You could even make your own instruments using recycled materials around the house - pots and pans with some sticks make great percussion instruments.	Experiment with making different voice sounds, such as loud, quiet, soft or squeaky.
Play Simon Says to practise body percussion sounds, e.g. 'Simon Says clap your hands'.	Use expression in your voice when reading a story or talking to your child and encourage them to do the same.
Sing 'If You're Happy and You Know It' and join in with the actions.	Play games with letter sounds, e.g. 'I Spy' to encourage children to recognise the initial sounds in words.