

# Jolly Phonics Information

## 1. Learning the letter sounds

In Jolly Phonics the 42 main sounds of English are taught, not just the 26 alphabet sounds. For each sound there is an action which helps the children remember the sound the letter makes. The letters are not introduced in alphabetical order. The first group 'S, A, T, I, P, N' has been chosen because they make more simple three letter words than any other six letters.

## 2. Letter Formation

We will help your child learn to hold the pencil correctly. If the hold starts incorrectly it is sometimes difficult to get it right later. We always start our letters at the top. The work that we will be doing at school will have a little dot to show where to start writing the letters.

## 3. Blending

Blending is a process of saying the sounds in a word and then running them together to make the word, e.g., c-a-t is "cat". Every child learns to do this at their own pace. To start with we sound out the word to see if a child can hear it. The sounds must be said fairly quickly to hear the word. It is easier if the first sound is said slightly louder than the rest, e.g., b-u-s. We will work on blending letters when we read and write. Sometimes we will use fingers or blocks to show how many sounds we hear.

## 4. Identifying sounds in words

Your child will be able to write independently when he/she is able to hear the sounds in words and to write the letters for those sounds. This is the first step towards your child's becoming an independent writer.

## 5. Tricky Words

Some words cannot be sounded out or spelled correctly by listening for the sounds in them. These are called the "Tricky Words" and some of them are sight words or high frequency words that will be learned by sight.

All of this learning comes in stages and is spread over a long period of time. We will be playing lot of games and singing songs with actions to make the learning fun!

