
Reading
Parent workshop
16th September
2026

What are we going to cover today?

- How we teach phonics and reading at Orchard
- Getting children ready to read fluently
- Supporting your child with reading at home
- Using the letter formations

What is phonics?

A method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent.

There are 44 main sounds in the English Language. Each sound is represented by a grapheme (the written representation of a sound)

Supporting your child with reading

- Only 1 in 3 children are read a bedtime story night
- Reading a bedtime story every night to your child improves their outcomes.
- Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable
- We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- We want them to practise reading their book at least 3 times across the week working on these skills: decode, fluency, expression.

Letter Formation

- We want children to learn how to form letters fluently using a tripod grip and having the correct starting and end points.

Rehearsal of this is the key

- Magic Pencil
- Mark making
- Cutting and sticking
- Using variety of tools to mark make
- Core strength and posture

Letter Formation

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t
u v w x y z

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t
u v w x y z

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz