



Literacy in the pre-school years

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- Reading starts with listening and speaking.
- It is important that children are listening to language from the time they are born.
- At kindergarten the children will be introduced to a new language - English.
- Speak to them about their activities, read books with pictures - in English
- Get involved in their play, asking them questions in English.

Play situations to develop language

- Pretend play situations such as shops, home play, puppets, cars and trucks, small plastic animals
- Play involves experimenting with language, making up scripts, using imagination
- Creating together involves conversation – building, making things together

Make a pretend shop or market stand to get children talking together.











Language and listening

- We have been created with an ability to learn a language.
- Children learn their mother-tongue by listening to their parents.
- Children under the age of 5 have a special ability in language learning.
- The kindergarten is therefore a good place to start learning a second language, in our case, English.

Listening and speaking go together

- Reading starts with listening and speaking.
- We can encourage children to identify sounds in the environment – wind and rain, birds and other animals
- near/far sounds; high/low sounds in music
- Listening for sounds that rhyme in songs and poems

Awareness of sounds

- Matching up sounds with letters is called “Phonics.”
- But children need practice in identifying the sounds that the letters make **before** they are introduced to the letter symbols.
- You will be making a collection of small pictures without letters. Use these to ask the children:

What is the first sound you hear when I say e.g.
cat

Sound Pictures



Teaching initial sounds

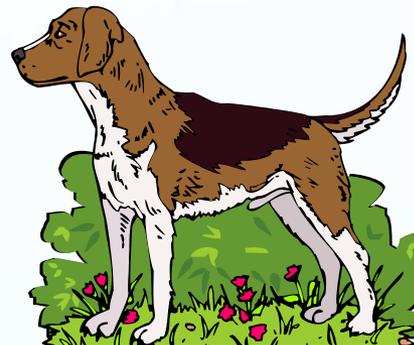
- *Initial sounds* are the sounds words begin with,
- Example, “cat” starts with “c”

Listening activities

Children listen for initial sounds, without seeing letters.

- Say: What sound can you hear at the beginning of “**c**at”
- Which words rhyme? *cat pot rat*
- Clap word syllables, e.g. their name – Jo/seph
- Guess the word I am saying, e.g. fl – a – g
- Play listening games such as “I spy”.

Picture or object collection for initial sounds



Word shapes

- Words have shapes
- Children start by identifying shapes around them – circles, triangles, squares
- Jig saw puzzles, play equipment of different shapes help children identify shapes
- Also ‘which is different’ games and activities

Reading readiness

Readiness is the step before reading.

In the preschool years:

- small finger muscles are being developed ready for writing.
- they learn language through songs, stories and rhymes
- puzzles and shape activities help their eyes to get ready to see the shapes that words make

Writing readiness

- Give plenty of practice in writing patterns and check that the child is holding the pencil or crayon correctly.



Activity

- Work with a partner.
- Make a list of the things that can prepare a child to read.
- Share your ideas.
- Now make your collection of Sound Pictures.