



Letters and Sounds Newsletter

October 2011

Dear Parents,

As part of the Literacy programme this year, our class has been combining the best parts of Letterland and Jolly Phonics. This allows the children to learn all the sounds and letters in a multi-sensory way. In class, we learn about sounds and letters using the Letterland characters and stories and combine them with the Jolly Phonics actions. The children have come along really well! I am really proud of their effort!



In the following weeks, I will be enlisting your help in reinforcing the work the children have been doing at school. I will be sending home flashcards, additional Literacy games using three letter words, as well as starting our Home Reading Book Programme.

Outlined below are further details of the programme and how you can support your child through:

- ✓ Using the flashcards daily
- ✓ Practising common words (sight words)
- ✓ Ensuring correct letter formation when printing
- ✓ Encouraging correct pencil grip
- ✓ Using appropriate letter character name, sounds and actions story “prompts” (see attached sheet)

Flashcards:

I am sending home flashcards today to be used as reinforcement for character names, letter sounds and letter actions (Please refer to the attachment provided below). Please try and find time to use them daily. The flashcards can also be used as a starting point to sounding out and making three letter words.

In class, some of the children have been blending together word endings e.g. “og”, “at”, “ap”, “ad”, “op” and “an” and adding different initial letter sounds to create new rhyming words, such as dog, log, cog.

Common words (sight words):

Another new addition to our classroom is that the children will be starting to learn their Kindergarten sight words. These are common words children will see in their early reading books and that are used frequently in their writing. The more they practise and memorise these, the more success they will have with their reading and then writing. Three or four new words will be taught each week. Some of the words can be sounded out – b-i-g or b-ig but most of the common words in the English language are irregular and can't be sounded out e.g. said, was, they, my etc. In school we call these words, the ‘tricky words’. The children will start to recognize, read and print these words through various different activities in the classroom.

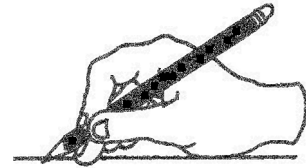
Please be sure to check the board to see what words we've been learning.

Letter formation:

For consistency, I would like to ask that when your child is printing at home please encourage them to use the letter formation that we use in class.

Pencil grip:

As children progress in Kindergarten and begin to work on developing their writing skills, it is important they begin to learn to hold pens and pencils in the correct way. The pencil should be held in the 'tripod' grip between the thumb and first two fingers. The grip is the same for both left and right handed children. This grip allows them to write more quickly and easily and can help to avoid physical problems to the hand and wrist.



Learning this pencil grip is a developmental process with some children naturally holding a pencil in the correct way, while others need to be taught. If a child's hold continues to be incorrect, it becomes very difficult to correct later on and therefore the 1-1 support you can offer at home can be a great help. At first, the grip may feel funny, but it won't be long before they feel improvement and this becomes a natural way to hold a pencil.

Thank you in advance for your support.
Miss Tracy

Letter character name, sounds and actions story “prompts”

s	Weave arms like Sammy Snake while saying the “ssssss” sound.
a	Pretend ants are going up Annie Apple’s arms and say “a a a a”
t	Imitate Talking Tess watching a tennis match by turning her head side to side saying “t t t t”
i	Pretend Impy Ink has seen a mouse. Wiggle fingers on the ends of their nose saying “i i i”
p	Imagine that Peter Puppy has gone to a party and needs to blow out the candles. Pretend their finger is a candle and try to puff out the candle saying “p p p p”
n	Noisy Nick went to the airport and pretends be a loud plane. Put your arms out and pretend to be an airplane saying a “n n n n” sound
c/k	Clever Cat and Kicking King go to a party and pretend to be Spanish dancers and click fingers above head saying “c c c c”
e	Eddy Elephant wants to make pancakes and pretends to crack an egg saying “e e e e”
h	Harry Hat Man runs up a hill and gets hot. Pretend they are panting while holding a hand up to their mouth saying “h h h h h”
r	Red Robot sees a puppy on the road and says “r r r r r” as if to scare the puppy away.
m	Munching Mike likes to eat lots of food, including metal. Rub tummy and say “m m m m m”
d	Dippy Duck goes to a party and starts to play the drums. Pretend to be playing a drum, moving fingers up and down saying “d d d d d”
g	Golden Girl’s long hair is stuck down the drain. Pretend that their hand is the water going round and round down the drain saying “g g g g g”
o	Oscar Orange rolls himself up the wall to turn on/off the light switch. Point finger as if turning on and off a switch saying “o o o”
u	Oh No! It’s raining! Better open Uppy Umbrella up! Make an upwards motion with hand as if putting up an umbrella saying “u u u u u”
l	Lucy Lamp Light is having a lollipop treat. Put out tongue and pretend to lick a popsicle saying “l l l l”
f	Firefighter Fred is trying to put out a fire with his hose. Slowly bring hands together as if a hose is losing water saying a fffffff sound.
b	Bouncy Ben likes to play baseball. Pretend to hold a bat and hit a ball saying “b b b b b”
j	Jumping Jim likes to jump really high but sometimes he’s not very careful. Pretend you are wobbling and say “j j j”
q	Quarrelsome Queen is a little bit bossy and she says “kw kw kw”. Put your hand in front of your mouth and make a talking hand mouth.
v	Vicky Violet likes to pick violets in the field and then put them in her van. Pretend to be holding a steering wheel of a van and say “vvv”
w	Walter Walrus loves to go splashing in wild water when it is windy. Pretend to blow on an open hand and say “wh wh wh”
x	Fix-It-Max can fix just about anything. One day he gets called to fix a camera. He fixes it and then tests it out. Pretend to take a picture of someone and say “ks ks ks”
y	Yellow Yo-yo man likes to play with his favourite toy- a yo-yo! Pretend to be playing with a yo-yo and say “y y y”
z	Zig Zag Zebra is out playing in the field. Before she goes out she needs to zip up her jacket. Pretend to zip up a coat and say “zzzz”