

Nursery Phonics

Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics

We are excited to be continuing our phonics journey in Nursery using the **Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics** programme. This programme supports children to develop the important listening and speaking skills they need before they begin formal phonics and reading. Through playful, engaging activities, children develop their awareness of sounds, rhymes, rhythm and the sounds they hear in everyday life.

What do the children do in Nursery?

Phonics in Nursery is all about **learning through play and developing children's listening skills**. The children take part in short, fun activities that encourage them to listen carefully and explore different sounds.

Our sessions include two main adult-led activities:

Rhyme Time

Children enjoy singing nursery rhymes, action songs and rhymes together. They develop their awareness of rhythm, rhyme and repeated patterns in language. We encourage children to join in with actions, repeat words and phrases and have fun experimenting with their voices.

Tuning into Sounds

Children develop their listening skills by exploring sounds in their environment. They may listen for sounds around them, identify instruments, copy sounds, play listening games or explore sounds made with different objects. These activities help children to become increasingly aware of the sounds they hear and to listen carefully and attentively.

We also build phonics opportunities into our **continuous provision and everyday routines**. For example, children might make sounds with musical instruments, explore environmental sounds outdoors, sing songs during tidy-up time or talk about sounds they can hear while playing.

How long do children spend on phonics?

Phonics activities in Nursery are **short, purposeful and age appropriate**. Children have approximately **10 minutes of adult-led phonics each day**, alongside lots of opportunities to practise their listening, speaking and communication skills throughout the day.



How can you help at home?

There are lots of simple ways you can support your child's phonics development at home:

- 🎵 **Sing nursery rhymes together** – encourage your child to join in with familiar words and actions.
- 👂 **Go on a listening walk** – stop and listen carefully. What can you hear? Can your child copy the sound?
- 🚗 **Talk about environmental sounds** – listen for cars, birds, dogs, doors closing and other sounds around you.
- 🖐️ **Clap rhythms** – clap the rhythm of your child's name or simple words and encourage them to copy you.
- 🥁 **Make music** – use pots, pans or musical instruments to explore loud, quiet, fast and slow sounds.
- 🗣️ **Talk, talk, talk!** – conversations help children develop their vocabulary, listening and speaking skills. Give your child plenty of opportunities to tell you about their day and explain their ideas.
- 📖 **Share books every day** – enjoy stories together, talk about the pictures and encourage your child to join in with repeated phrases.

Most importantly, **keep it fun!** Children learn best when they are relaxed, interested and enjoying the experience.



A final message

The foundations developed in Nursery are incredibly important for children's future reading and writing. By helping children to listen carefully, enjoy rhymes, develop their vocabulary and become curious about the sounds around them, we are preparing them for the next stage of their phonics journey.

Thank you for supporting us in developing your child's **love of language, sounds, songs and stories**. Every rhyme sung, story shared and conversation enjoyed together helps to build strong foundations for future learning!

Please follow the link below to the Little Wandle website where you can find all of the nursery rhymes we will be learning in nursery this year:

<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabNurseryRhymesVideos>