

How we teach reading at Monkchester Road Nursery School and Playgroup

Reading is one of the most important lifelong skills that children will begin to develop while they are at Monkchester Road Nursery School and Playgroup. We actively teach the skills needed for children to become good readers as soon as they start at Nursery and Playgroup. We have a wide range of activities, strategies, resources and techniques to develop and improve our children's early reading skills and these are explained below.

First and foremost, we aim to instil a love of reading in our children so that they enjoy reading and choose to read for pleasure. We have a wide selection of 'Big Books' that staff read to children daily with fun stories and bright, colourful illustrations to engage and enthuse them. We try to teach reading through multisensory experiences to help children enjoy books and remember the important skills and knowledge needed for reading.

As well as reading to the children, we encourage them to share books with their friends. Comfy, 'Reading Corners' and 'Book Nooks' in every classroom invite the children to look at books and share them together. Staff choose books for their classrooms from our extensive 'Early Years Library'. The Library is also a snug little room that children visit with staff in small groups to work quietly and search for books. The Library has many story books, dual language books and non fiction texts so that children learn that they can find out information from books as well as enjoy them for pleasure. Each classroom has a 'Listening Centre' with a selection of stories and songs for the class to listen to in small groups with headphones. The children have sets of books to match the CD and taped stories so they can read along with the story as they listen. We have a large variety of listening games and resources to encourage children's early listening skills that support the development of reading.

All around the Nursery and Playgroup, we have text asking children questions, making statements and giving information. We also have signs, symbols and logos in the environment which we encourage children to notice, recognise, read and understand. These purposeful texts help children to read for meaning and understand that writing has a purpose to inform us. The texts around our setting contain some 'key words and phrases' to help children read and recognise them in context.



Every day, as well as reading stories, children in the Nursery take part in a daily dedicated session of '**Letters and Sounds**'. This is a phonic approach to learning how to read whereby children learn that each letter of the alphabet has a corresponding sound (or sometimes more than one sound). Our children work on '**Phase 1**' of this programme of studying Letters and Sounds and some of our more able children work into '**Phase 2**'.

Before children begin matching letters to sounds, we use their daily dedicated sessions to help them **learn about sounds** around them so that they can spot the differences and differentiate between many sounds. In these sessions we also teach children about the rhythm in words, about **rhyme and alliteration**. Children will learn and join in with many songs, jingles and rhymes while they are with us. They will develop their own repertoire of **Nursery rhymes** and Maths rhymes to help them learn skills to help them read.

When our children are ready, we use a programme called '**Jolly Phonics**' to support them as they match letters to sounds and begin to learn the letters of the alphabet. We introduce the sounds of letters first rather than their names as the sounds support them as they learn how to decode texts and develop into independent readers.

We have a selection of Big Books, posters, games and puppets that help us to teach '**Jolly Phonics**' in a fun and exciting way and children learn hand symbols to help them remember the sound that each letter makes. ([See link to Jolly Phonics website](#)). Resources, games and jigsaws linked to recognising the letter sounds in the alphabet help to make learning even more fun for the children.

For our more able readers, we have **sets of phonic reading books** to support them before they move into their Reception classes so they can read simple texts that have 2, 3 and 4 letter words in them. Children have the opportunity to read in small groups as the year progresses so they can get ready for their **shared reading** sessions in their Primary Schools. The phonic texts that we use are the early reading books from reading schemes:-

- [] Jolly Phonics Early Readers
- [] The Rag-Tag Rhymes
- [] Dandelion Launchers



In classrooms, staff plan topic themes around books to support children to understand the structure of stories and we have 'Story Sacks' that help children to learn and rehearse the order and sequence of favourite stories.

Every Tuesday, children in nursery have the chance to take home a Maths Pack and a Reading Sack and these can be kept at home for the week to share with their families. We encourage parents to take part in this 'Reading At Home Scheme' as it helps children to understand the importance of reading as well as enjoying books at home as well as school. It also prepares children for taking books home more regularly in their Reception class. We have set days and events when parents are invited in to Nursery to share books with their children and they particularly like reading books they have made themselves in the classroom. Book making is a key aspect of our learning to read programme as it helps children to recognise the links between reading and writing.

Non fiction texts are included around classrooms so that reading becomes part of all areas of our curriculum. We use ICT such as classroom computers, Smartboards and iPads to help children to learn that reading is useful for finding out information on computers as well as from books.



Playgroup

In Playgroup we have daily dedicated nursery rhyme time where we use a number of puppets and props to encourage and engage the children. Through the use of nursery rhymes children have the opportunity to practice their language skills including pitch, volume and rhythm whilst extending their vocabulary and use of words. Nursery rhymes are a great way of introducing early phonics such as being able to hear, identify and say letter sounds. Children gain early experience of stories through nursery rhymes as they follow a sequence of events, as they have a beginning, middle and end just like a story in a book and by giving our children the opportunities to practice these rhymes we offer the experience of sequencing events, which are skills needed for future reading.