Some useful definitions

As your children go through school you will learn more about phonics teaching—here are some definitions which will hopefully help you understand what is being taught.

Phoneme - the smallest single identifiable sound e.g. the letters "sh" represent just one sound, but "sp" represents two (s and p).

Blend (vb)- to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word e.g. s-n-a-p, blended together, reads snap.

Grapheme - a letter or a group of letters representing one sound e.g. sh, ch, igh, ough (as in "though")

Digraph— two letters making one sound e.g. sh, ch, th, ph.

Grapheme - phoneme correspondence i.e. the relationship between sounds and the letters which represent those sounds; known as "letter –sound correspondences"

Mnemonic - a device for memorizing and recalling something, like snake for the letter "S" " ss is for snake".

Segment (vb) - to split up a word into it's individual phonemes in order to spell it, e.g. the word "cat" has three phonemes: c, a, t.

Don't forget to talk about the meaning and purpose of words you are teaching your child to read.

Need more advice?
Please talk to your child's key person or room leader

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Strong Close Nursery School

A guide to "Phonics"

"mmm is for milk!"

This leaflet will help you to understand more about how we teach phonics in Nursery, this is only part of the way that we support children to become readers... for more information please see our other leaflet ….'The Road to Reading'.

Jeśli potrzebujesz tlumaczenia na jezyk polski uzyj numeru.

যদি এই অনুবাদ বাংলায় চান তাহলে উপরের সংখ্যায় যোগাযোগ করুন.

اگر آپ اردو میں اس کا ترجمہ کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو اوپر

نمبر سے رابطہ یکر

What do we want children to learn?

At Strong Close Nursery School we use many strategies to teach phonics. This may be during children's play or through more structured group times. In both situations we will be helping children to;

- Distinguish sounds in the environment (notice and make sounds they hear in world around them) e.g. we play sound bingo, guess the sound, and go on sound walks.

- Show an awareness of rhyme (words that end with same sound—cat/hat) and alliteration (words that begin with same sound—Lucy Lion). We do this through word play games and through books that use rhyme & alliteration.

- Explore & experiment with sounds & words. We encourage children to begin to identify some of the speech sounds (known as phonemes) that make up a word.
- Begin to orally blend & segment speech sounds (phonemes) in words.
- We encourage children to sound out words. We do this through word play, using robot voices, and when a child is beginning to try to write things like

If children are ready we will introduce them to later stages of phonics teaching , learning how speech sounds are linked to letters and writing words. We will encourage their attempts to write a word by sounding it out. At this stage we will not worry about correct spellings. We encourage children to work out how a word sound sounds rather than copying it out when they want to write a word. But we recognise that some words are tricky and are not written as they sound. So, if children want/need us to write words for them we do; it's all about   making them feel confident about the relationships between sounds and letters.

How you can help?
Phonemes

An important part of phonics is helping Children to begin to discriminate the phonemes that make up a word. We often do this by emphasising the initial sound of a word at first e.g. the initial sound of their name, and then widening this to the names of other children in the class. Games like 'I spy' encourage an awareness of the initial sound in a word. We would then continue to build on this phonic knowledge by assisting children to become increasingly aware of other sounds that make up the word.

Graphemes

A grapheme is the letter or sequence of letters that represent a sound (phonemes). So for cat the graphemes would be c-a-t. But for boot, the graphemes would be b-oo-t. Boot like cat is made up of three phonemes. The oo in the middle is one unit of sound.

A phoneme may be represented by different corresponding graphemes i.e. r-ai-n, m-ay, c-a-ke

The relationship between grapheme and phoneme:

- You HEAR the phoneme, and you SEE the grapheme
- There are the same number of graphemes in a word as there are phonemes

Modelling the right sounds is very important. When you are modelling a letter sound, be careful not to add an "uh" sound at the end of the letter. For example letter **s** says **"sss"**, not **"suh"**, **m** says **"mmm"**, not **"muh"**, **n** says **"nnn"**, not **"neh"**.

There are lots of good you tube clips that model the correct way to sound out phonemes: for example Mr Thorne: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LITw0oiLNys

Phonics
ee ur ow
wh y au