

Notes for parents, teachers and classroom assistants

What is phonics?

Phonics is a means by which children learn how to read and spell words. Phonic knowledge and phonic skills help children to make a good start in reading and writing. The first important step is for them to develop an awareness of the different sounds in spoken language. From this they will begin to understand that words are made up of different **phonemes** (sounds) and will gradually learn to hear the different sounds in a word.

Sound Phonics

Sound Phonics supports the teaching and learning of phonics. It can be used in school or at home, providing children with opportunities to apply and practise their developing phonic knowledge and skills. The series follows the same basic structure as the systematic phonics resource *Letters and Sounds* (© Crown copyright 2007) and can also be used with other phonics programmes.

Sound Phonics Phase One

As well as being compatible with *Letters and Sounds*, **Sound Phonics Phase One** also supports Communication, Language and Literacy in Early Years Foundation Stage settings, as described in *Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage* (© Qualifications and Curriculum Authority 2000).

Sound Phonics Phase One differs slightly from the other **Sound Phonics** books in this series. Like the other books, it provides page-by-page activities that teachers or parents will guide the child through. Unlike the other books, it does not require the child or the adult to write in or mark the book. It may therefore be reused as often as required and for this reason it is presented in a more durable format.

How to use the activities

The activities in this book are to be used by an adult working with one child or a small group of children. Full instructions are provided.

Activity content

Sound Phonics Phase One begins with general sound discrimination activities and then introduces the key elements of phonic learning: listening to **phonemes**, **oral segmenting** and **oral blending**. All the activities encourage discussion because the development of children's speaking and listening skills is vital preparation for reading and writing. Many of the activities are presented as games, making the learning process fully interactive.

Further ideas for listening and sound discrimination activities are provided on page 31.

Focus statements

The 'Focus' notes at the foot of each page summarise the teaching objectives for that page, expressed simply so that any adult working with the child will understand them. Technical terms are defined in the Glossary, for the benefit of parents and other helpers.

A **Glossary and notes for parents** section is provided at the back of the book, on page 32.