Quick Phonics Fun: Supporting Your Child in Reception

Key points

- Phonics is the method children use to link sounds (phonemes) to letters (graphemes) to read and write.
- Blending is the skill of pushing sounds together to make a word, such as /c/-/a/-/t/ becoming 'cat'.
- Segmenting is the opposite of blending, where children break a word down into its individual sounds.
- Your child's teacher uses short, playful activities to keep these skills fresh throughout the school day.
- Every child learns at their own pace, and the goal is to build confidence through positive encouragement.
- Schools follow guidance such as 'Development Matters' to ensure children develop their communication and literacy skills.

Things to try at home

- Play 'I Spy' using sounds instead of letters, such as 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with /s/'.
- While shopping or walking, spot a letter on a sign and see if you can remember the sound it makes.
- Clap out the sounds in simple words together, like clapping once for each sound in 'dog' (/d/-/o/-/g/).
- Read a favourite story together and let your child point out any letters they recognise.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's phonics lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official Department for Education guidance.
- The school's parent handbook or newsletter.