



'The Alphabetic Principle'

Reading development is dependent on an understanding of 'The Alphabetic Principle' – the idea that letters and letter patterns represent the sounds of spoken language. Acquiring alphabetic knowledge involves learning letter names, letter sounds, and letter shapes.

Letter Names

Singing songs such as the Alphabet Song and reciting rhymes.

Letter Sounds

Listening to, identifying, saying and manipulating the sounds in words.

Letter Shapes

Playing with blocks or magnetic letters, exploring environmental print or books.

Phonics instruction then helps learners use their knowledge and understanding of 'The Alphabetic Principle' – that there are systematic and predictable relationships between spoken sounds and the letters we use to represent them.