



When is a child ready for phonics sessions?

Motivation and Engagement	Symbolic Understanding	Phonological Awareness
<p>The child should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *attend and show active engagement in an adult led task for a few minutes either one to one or within a group. *be able to listen and respond to simple instructions from an adult either one to one or in a small group. e.g. 'Where is...', 'Show me...' 	<p>The child should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *distinguish between words and pictures, for example when looking at a picture book. *recognise familiar words such as their name. *recognise some letters by name or sound, especially those that are important to them such as the initial letter of their name. 	<p>The child should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * be able to distinguish and identify different sounds including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds and voice sounds? *to talk about/show an awareness of different sounds e.g. is it fast/ loud? *be able to orally blend words? For non-verbal learners this might be achieved by matching objects to words segmented by an adult
<p>They may also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *show a fascination with numbers, letters or symbols. *show an interest in the text in books as well as the pictures. *show an interest in written texts in the environment e.g. written and pictorial signs in the local environment. 	<p>They may also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *distinguish between different numerals and/or letters? For example, can they give you or point to a given numerals or letter? Can they match numerals and letters? Can they say the numeral or letter? *sequence and match numbers and letters 	<p>The may also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * make different voice sounds including mimicking environmental and instrument sounds and repeating phonemes (letter sounds). *show an awareness of and copy rhythms. *recognise and/or generate rhyming words and alliteration. *Show which object, picture or symbol represents a sound when they hear it.

Other considerations:

*Some children may be sight readers and find a different approach to interpreting text more helpful than synthetic phonics. This handout covers [whole word reading](#).

*Some children will "read" words without understanding what they have read. Comprehension is essential for meaningful reading. Your Speech and Language Therapist will be able to advise you.