



Dear Parents/ Carers,

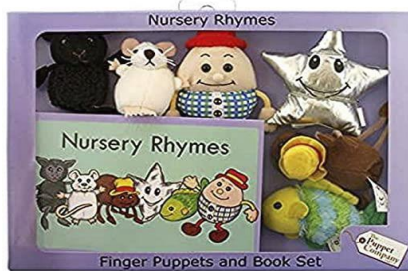
At Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School, we use the programme of teaching phonics called 'Little Wandle'.



Little Wandle is a systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) used in many UK schools to teach early reading and spelling. It helps children learn how to:

- Recognise letters (graphemes)
- Say the sounds (phonemes) those letters make
- Blend sounds together to read words
- Segment words to spell them

It follows the Letters and Sounds framework but has been updated with a structured approach based on the latest research.



At Sandy Lane Nursery and forest school the children access the 'foundations for phonics' aspect of the programme. Foundations for Phonics is the nursery phase of the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme.

It lays the groundwork for learning to read and write in Reception by helping young children:

- Listen carefully to sounds in the world around them
- Hear and say sounds in spoken words
- Develop a love of books and stories
- Build the language skills they need for reading

Children take part in fun activities that focus on these 4 key areas:

1. Listening and Attention

- Learning to tune in to sounds
- Playing listening games like “What’s that sound?”
- Talking about the sounds they hear

2. Oral Blending

- Hearing the separate sounds in words (e.g. *c-a-t*) and putting them together to say the whole word (*cat*)
- This is an important pre-reading skill!

3. Vocabulary and Language Development

- Talking with adults and friends
- Learning new words through books, play, and songs
- Using full sentences and building confidence to communicate

4. Sharing Stories and Rhymes

- Daily story time
- Singing rhymes and songs
- Developing a love of reading

**Yearly Phonics Progression**

| Term     | Rhyme Time                         | Tuning into Sounds |
|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Autumn 1 | 3x weekly: One rhyme every 3 weeks | No Sessions        |
| Autumn 2 |                                    | s a t p i n m      |
| Spring 1 |                                    | d g o c k e        |
| Spring 2 |                                    | u r h b f l        |
| Summer 1 |                                    | j v w y z qu ch    |
| Summer 2 |                                    | ck x sh th ng nk   |

## Weekly Phonics Offer

|                                          | Part of Programme                                     | How long for?       | How often?                                                          |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Foundations for a Love of Reading</b> | Storytime using our guidance                          | 5-10 minutes        | Every am and pm session – every child should hear a story daily     |
|                                          | EY2P book plans: Continuous provision                 | n/a                 | Focus story – 3 weeks enhancement within provision linked to story. |
|                                          | EY2P book plans: Adult-led activities                 | 5- 10 minutes       | Daily                                                               |
| <b>Foundation for Phonics</b>            | Tuning into sounds activities and oral blending games | 5 minutes           | 3 x per week                                                        |
|                                          | Rhyme time songs and matched activities               | 5 minutes           | 3 x per week                                                        |
| <b>Foundations for Language</b>          | Interaction techniques                                | All day, every day! |                                                                     |

## How Can I Help at Home?

Here are some simple ways you can support your child's early phonics learning:

### **Listen to sounds together**

- Go on a “sound walk” and talk about the noises you hear (birds, cars, water)

**Play simple games**

- Try games like "I spy" (with sounds, not letters) or "Simon says"

**Sing nursery rhymes and action songs**

- These build rhythm, rhyme, and listening skills

**Talk and read every day**

- Share books together and talk about what's happening in the pictures
- Ask simple questions like: "*What do you think will happen next?*"

**Model blending sounds**

- Say: "Let's get your c-oa-t – coat!" and let your child hear how you blend sounds together