

Guidance on how to use the letter and picture tiles

Please find inside your child's book bag some matching letter and picture tiles which can be used to help your child develop his or her reading skills with some fun activities.

These are part of the *Floppy's Phonics* teaching programme whereby the letters and sounds of the English language are systematically introduced over a number of terms for teaching reading, spelling and handwriting.

These tiles can be used in a variety of ways. Some suggestions are listed below.

1) Match the letter shape to its key picture-word

- Take a picture tile and say the picture-word slowly, emphasising the first sound of the word, e.g. 'sun'. With your child, pick out the letter tile that is code for this first sound, i.e. 's'. Try to say the sound purely and avoid adding the 'uh' on to it, e.g. say "sss" and not "suh". (Note that as your child progresses, some of the letters and letter groups are middle or end sounds of the key picture-words, e.g. 'ur' as in 'purse'.)
- Place the tiles face down and take turns to turn over two tiles to match letter shapes with the picture-words. If a match is not found, turn them face down again and remember what is where until the next turn.

2) Letter/s-sound recognition for reading

- Learning how to say the letter-sounds quickly and automatically is a key reading sub-skill. Line up all the letter tiles, point to them and ask your child to say the sounds.

3) Letter/s-sound recognition for spelling

- Learning how to identify the letters as code for their sounds is a spelling sub-skill. Say each sound in turn and ask your child to listen carefully to the sound and then point to the correct letter tile.

4) Building words

- Make short words with the letter tiles, e.g. sat, tip, pin. Ask your child to sound out the words and blend the sounds together to read the whole word. Encourage your child to make words using the letter tiles.