

Letters & Sounds:

Phase 1

Welcome to Phonics with Yoto

This pack is designed to develop your child's speaking and listening skills, laying the foundations for the phonics work they will do in phase two and beyond.

All of our activities are linked to the UK National Curriculum and are designed to support your child as they develop their reading skills.

The focus in this phase is to encourage children to consider the sounds they hear around them every day and begin to have fun generating their own sounds.

Phase 1 is broken down into seven aspects, and you will find a Yoto card for each aspect in your pack.



1. What's that Sound?

What is it?

This card will help your child distinguish between the different **environmental sounds** they may hear in their day-to-day life - from a dog barking to the sound of a lawnmower.

Why is it helpful?

This activity will raise your child's awareness of the sounds they hear around them and help improve their listening skills, vital for attuning to the sounds of speech and language.

How does it work?

When you place the card in your Yoto Player, you will hear randomly generated sounds. Encourage your child to listen carefully and say what it is they can hear. When they are ready, they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to go on to the next sound.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

You could go on a 'listening walk' with your child and see what sounds you can hear in your local area.

2. What's that Instrument?

What is it?

This card will help your child distinguish between the different sounds instruments make, and maybe introduce them to some new **instrumental sounds**.



Why is it helpful?

This activity will help your child refine their listening skills by distinguishing between sounds made by various instruments.

How does it work?

In your pack, you will find a sheet with 12 different images of instruments. When you place the card in your Yoto Player, you will hear a short clip of one of the instruments. Encourage your child to listen carefully and match the sounds they hear to one of the images. If they are unsure, or unfamiliar with any of the instruments, talk to them about each one and the type of sounds they make. When they are ready, they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to move on to the next instrument.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

Have a go at making your own instruments (shakers, drums etc.). What different sounds can you make?

3. Body Beats

What is it?

This card will encourage your child to use their **body as a percussion instrument** by clapping their hands, stomping their feet and more.

Why is it helpful?

This activity will develop your child's ability to listen and then copy the sounds and rhythms that they hear. Teaching children to follow patterns and copy rhythms is key to laying the foundations for reading.

How does it work?

Your child will be asked to copy the rhythms they hear using the body percussion skill selected, for example, clapping their hands or stomping their feet. The rhythms will get increasingly tricky. Play along with your child; seeing you joining in will help them enormously. When they are ready they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to go on to the next body beat.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

Listen to songs together and try to copy the rhythms using your body as percussion.



4. Rhythm & Rhyme

What is it?

This card will help your child recognise that some words **rhyme** and encourage them to find pairs of rhyming words.

Why is it helpful?

Playing with rhyme helps children to appreciate the rhythm of the language we use and is a vital foundation for reading aloud and with expression.

How does it work?

Your Yoto card will randomly generate an image and say a word (e.g. 'cat'). Your child will then be given some time to think of some words that rhyme with that word. After a few examples, you will hear a short rhyme using the words they have practised. When they are ready, they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to go on to the next word.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

Read rhyming stories together and spot the rhyming words - The Gruffalo is a great place to start.



5. Tongue Testers

What is it?

This card introduces your child to **alliteration** - when two or more words have the same initial sound - helping them to start recognising the different sounds that make up the words we use.

Why is it helpful?

Alliteration is not only a great introduction to the world of phonics, it is a fun, memorable way of playing with the rhythm and patterns of language.

How does it work?

Your Yoto card will generate a sentence using alliteration of a particular letter. Encourage your child to listen carefully and then have a go at repeating what they have heard. There are one or two tricky tongue twisters thrown in to spice things up - don't worry if they struggle with these, they are just a bit of fun! When they are ready, they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to go on to the next sentence.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

Have a go at making your own sentences together - choose a letter and try to build a sentence using alliteration. This can be lots of fun - the sillier the better!





6. Make that Sound

What is it?

Your mouth isn't just for talking, you know! We can make all kinds of sounds with our mouth... this card encourages your child to do just that!

Why is it helpful?

Making different **vocal sounds** develops children's pronunciation and awareness of the many sounds they will need to master as they improve their speech and language.

How does it work?

Your Yoto card will display an image and play the sound that that image makes (e.g. the image of a bee). Your child will be encouraged to listen and then make the sound themselves. Again, joining in with your child will help a great deal. When they are ready, they can press the right hand button on their Yoto Player to go on to the next sound.

What else can we do to develop this skill?

Make the sounds of the things you see around you - interact with your surroundings by repeating the noise you hear.



7. Make that Word

What is it?

This card will introduce your child to **blending and segmenting** - breaking words down into the sounds they are made up of and putting them back together again.

Why is it helpful?

This is the final stepping stone before entering the more formal aspects of learning to read - it will help your child recognise and practise using the sounds that make up the words we all use.

How does it work?

Yoto will display an image and encourage your child to break the word they can see down into sounds. For example, Cat = C - A - T. They can practise at their own pace, moving between the images when they are ready.

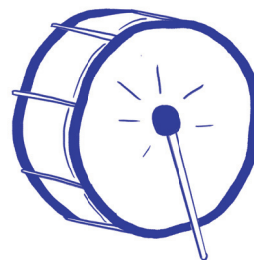
What else can we do to develop this skill?

Encourage your child to break down the sounds of the words they can see and hear around them. Keep it simple to begin with - CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words are the best place to start.

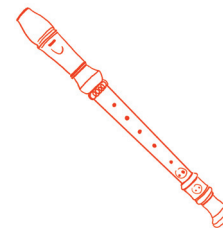


What's that Instrument?

Instruments Sheet



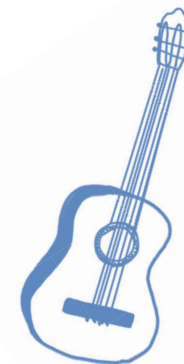
Bass Drum



Recorder



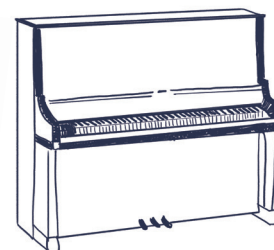
Cymbals



Guitar



Whistle



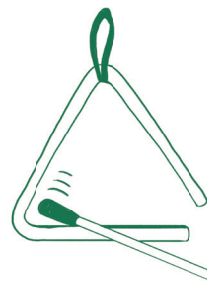
Piano



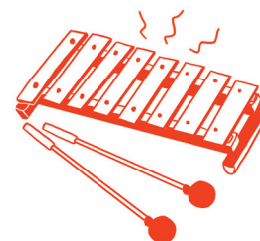
Maracas



Bell



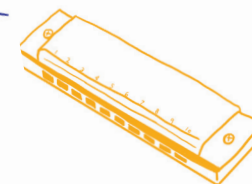
Triangle



Glockenspiel



Trumpet



Harmonica