

# Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation NEWSLETTER



*All it takes is a helping hand*

Edition 5

Date: 12 November, 2020

Pune

Welcome to the latest edition of the AMF Newsletter! In our previous newsletter, we read in detail about Reading Disability or, "Dyslexia" as it is commonly known, and its impact on Reading. We also discussed various components of reading

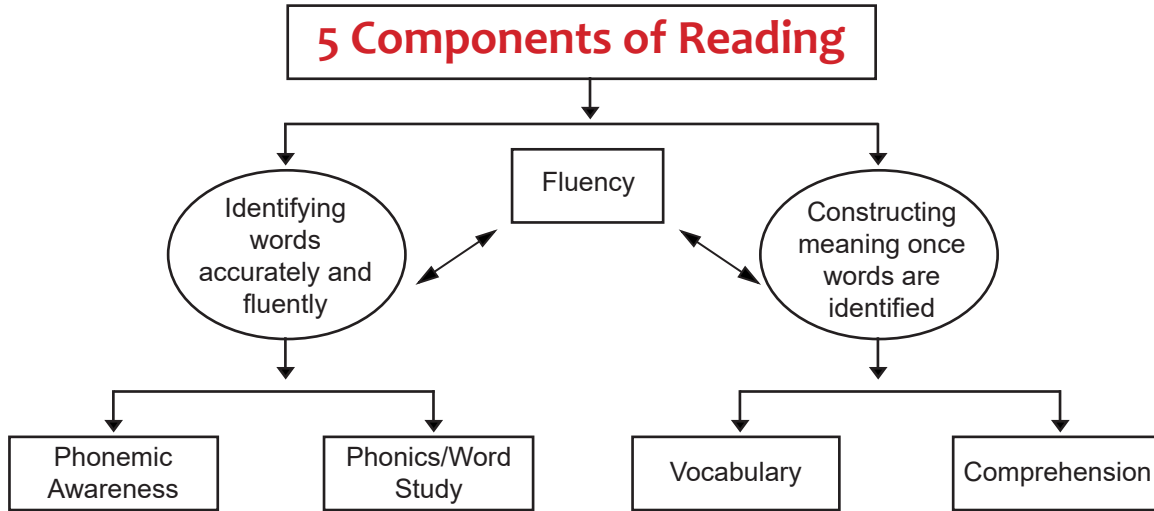
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## What do we mean by Early Literacy Skills?

These are the basic skills a child must have before he/she starts to read and write.

Some examples are:

- Every child learns some pre-skills before learning to read, write and do math, like knowing certain sounds and drawing standing

and sleeping lines. This is called Phonological Awareness and Phonics.

- Understanding the concepts of more and less, before and after in math.

In the previous newsletter, we learnt about Phonological Awareness and about various activities which help improve this Awareness.

In this newsletter, we are going to read about Phonics. As parents or teachers we always get asked, what exactly is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language.

/s/ sat	/t/ tap	/p/ pan	/n/ nose	/m/ mat	/a/ ant	/e/ egg	/i/ ink	/o/ otter
/g/ goat	/d/ dog	/k/ cat	/r/ run	/h/ hat	/u/ up	/ai/ rain	/ee/ knee	/igh/ light
/b/ bus	/f/ farm	/l/ lolly	/j/ jam	/v/ van	/oa/ boat	/oo/ <small>(short)</small> cook	/oo/ <small>(long)</small> boot	/ar/ star
/w/ wish	/x/ fox	/y/ yell	/z/ zap	/qu/ quill	/or/ fork	/ur/ burn	/ow/ now	/oi/ boil
/ch/ chin	/sh/ ship	/th/ <small>(unvoiced)</small> think	/th/ <small>(voiced)</small> the	/ng/ sing	/ear/ near	/air/ stair	/ure/ sure	/er/ writer

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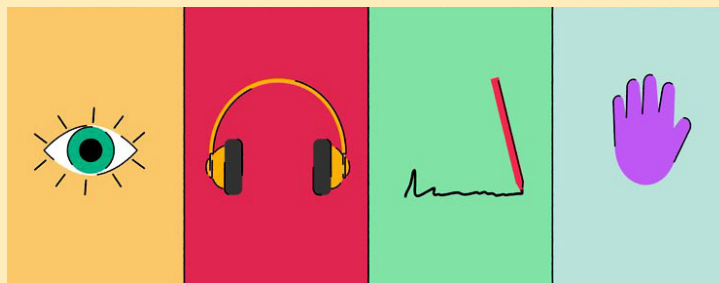
Most of us know that English is an alphabetic language. It has 26 letters. But do you think that these 26 letters make just 26 sounds? The answer is an emphatic NO!

These 26 letters, in various combinations, represent 44 sounds in the English language.

Teaching students the basic letter-sound combinations gives them access to sounding out approximately 84% of the words in English print (International Literacy Association, 2019).

Therefore, in simple terms Phonics means, a Letter-Sound association.

**English Alphabet has:**  
**26 Letters**  
**44 Sounds**



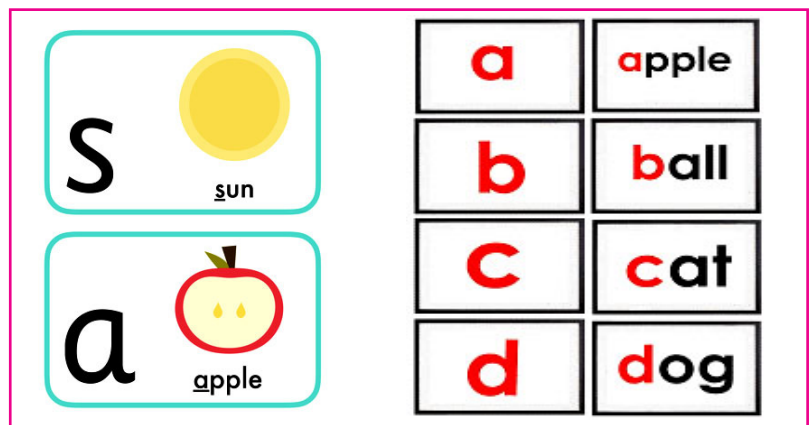
## Learning Styles

Phonics can be taught in very creative ways. It is more effective by using a multi-sensory approach, which focuses on visual, auditory, kinesthetic and tactile forms of teaching.

## Flashcard Method

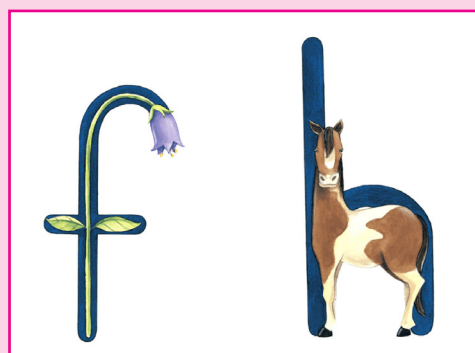
Flashcards for Phonics include a letter and a picture of the keyword. This helps to form an association between the letter and sound of the keyword.

For example:  
A says /a/ as in apple.  
B says /b/ as in bat.



## Picture Match

Another way of making flashcards would be by a sound and picture match up.



## Sing Along

Phonics can also be introduced through sing-alongs by giving it a rhythm and adding some clapping and dancing, so that the child is able to grasp it faster and memorise it better. This includes alphabet songs and chants.



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## Activity Based Learning

Yet another way to teach Phonics to children who enjoy tactile (touch) method of learning, is by giving them beads or foam rings with alphabets and, teaching them to pick up the correct alphabet for each sound. This can also be done using sand, slime bags, water etc. as children enjoy learning and exploring through various mediums and surfaces.



## Phonics Partner

Adding a Phonics partner or creating a group helps children learn phonics better and motivates them to participate and learn together.



Learning Phonics helps children become successful readers. However, only learning the mechanisms of pre-literacy skills is insufficient.

One important component of reading is that every child should have the required grade appropriate vocabulary and be able to comprehend everything that has been read.

Accuracy and fluency are two other important characteristics of a good reader.

At Dr. Anjali Morris Foundation, we have various programs that highlight the reading process and help children become effective learners.

In our next newsletter, we will read about the next component of reading i.e. "Vocabulary".

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### Success Story

We have many students who are continuing to benefit from AMF’s EMPOWER™ Reading Program. We would like to share one such success story with you.

Ayesha Sheikh, a student currently studying in Grade 9, approached Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation a year ago. She was struggling academically, facing difficulties in basic reading and writing which further affected her language comprehension. Ayesha’s father got to know about Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation (AMF) from a work colleague. In early 2019, the parents approached AMF with a lot of hope and concern that, despite being in Grade 8, Ayesha was unable to read simple words and struggled with letter-sound associations. After the assessments done at AMF, it was clear that Ayesha had severe difficulties in reading and writing. She was unable to decode words and write spellings. AMF recommended the need

for immediate intervention. With her parents’ consent, she enrolled for the structured program named “EMPOWER™ Reading Program for Decoding and Spellings for Grades 2 to 5”.

The program helped Ayesha improve her decoding and spelling skills and, she started overcoming her difficulties slowly but surely. She can now read difficult words using different strategies and write spellings using letter-sound associations.

Gradually, as her marks improved, she started blossoming into a more confident individual. The parents are overjoyed with her progress and know that she will now continue building on her academic achievements.

Dr. Anjali Morris Education and Health Foundation team too is very happy to see her succeed and wish to continue helping many more students like Ayesha in the future.

