

Emergent Literacy

– reading and writing

PLEASE NOTE: At the level of Grade R, learners need to grasp only the most common sound the letter makes – for instance, 'buh' (for b), 'cuh' (for c) and 'duh' (for d). A letter's name – such as b (bee), c (see) and d (dee) – is not taught at this stage.

HOW TO TEACH PHONICS IN THE CLASSROOM

Introduce a new letter each week. There is a suggested sequence in the weekly lesson plans, but because Grade R learners are not yet expected to build words, you can choose to introduce the letters in any sequence you like.

Preparation:

- Choose a letter to teach.
- Prepare your phonics (sound) table: Place items beginning with the letter on the table. Label each item neatly.
- Place the letter you have enlarged and decorated on your phonics table.
- Use plain letter templates. Make one copy of the letter for each learner and one for yourself. (If you like, you can make or buy sandpaper letters – these are made from fine-grit sandpaper and are available commercially. Alternatively, you can just trace around the letter template, cut out the copy and mount it on a square of hard cardboard.)
- Prepare a few pegboard letters.

Introducing the letter

- Introduce the letter. Show learners the letter you have enlarged and decorated and tell them the story that goes with the letter.
- Point out the items on the table and say their names (sound them out slowly to emphasise the individual sounds, but make a special point of emphasising the first sound in each – which is, of course, the letter you are teaching).
- Ask learners to think of other words that begin with the same sound.
- Ask learners whose names start with this letter to stand up.

