

## Phonics

All words are made up of sounds, and these sounds are phonics. Words can be broken down into their individual sounds which is called segmenting.

We can take the sounds that make up a word and blend those sounds together to make the word.

You don't need any resources to develop this understanding, it's all about listening and speaking. It helps if children hear a gentle version of the letter sound not a hard sound e.g. 'g' is soft and short it shouldn't be pronounced 'g-er' as this has a long 'errr' sound that is not used when it is blended.

Listen [here](#) to hear the sounds that we use in the English language and the way to pronounce them.

Play a very simple game using words with just 3 sounds – c-a-t, d-o-g, c-u-p, c-ar, sh-ee-p.

Play in the car, on a walk, in the bath as often as you can. The game can be really simple – 'I can say (gentle sounds) c – a – t, cat. What can you say?'

Children usually start hearing initial sounds first. They may say

'I can say 'sss' for tree!' and you can repeat 'You can say t for tree'.

### Clanky the Robot Game

'When Clanky the robot learns a new word, he says the sounds and puts them together to make a word. I am going to say the sounds like Clanky, can you say the word?'