

Learning to Read: Jolly Phonics Programme

In playschool and Montessori and in the early months of school, there is strong emphasis on listening to stories and the sounds of the language, including rhyme and rhythm, building up to a focus on synthetic phonics (letter-sound relationships). Children are taught that certain letters make particular sounds, and then they can start to read simple words by blending those sounds together.

After they have learned the more straightforward letter-sound relationships, they are taught the more complex ones eg: igh, ie, y etc

Sounds are not taught in alphabetical order, instead they are taught in the order best suited to begin blending sounds for reading. We, in Our Lady of Good Counsel BNS use the Jolly Phonics Programme.

Jolly Phonics is a fun and child centred approach to teaching literacy through synthetic phonics. With actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, the multi-sensory method is very motivating for children and teachers, who can see their students achieve. The letter sounds are split into seven groups as shown below.

1. s, a, t, i, p, n

2. c k, e, h, r, m, d

3. g, o, u, l, f, b

4. ai, j, oa, ie, ee, or

5. z, w, ng, v, oo, oo

6. y, x, ch, sh, th, th

7. qu, ou, oi, ue, er, ar