

Phonics

Phonics is a way of teaching reading and writing by developing learner's phonemic awareness - the ability to hear, identify and manipulate sounds (phonemes) in words.

When pronouncing individual phonemes or sounds it is important to keep the sound short and **not to schwa**. To schwa means to add an extra vowel sound e.g. /m/ not /mu/, /th/ not /thi/. This is important because if children add extra vowel sounds in pronunciation, they may miss out a vowel letter when writing so mother might be written as mthr or thin might be written as thn.

There are lots of phonics resources available online. The BBC's **Bitesize** has a great phonics section -



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtftr>

Phonics Play have made their site free during the current coronavirus situation.



<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>