



An Overview of Jolly Phonics



Jolly Phonics is a systematic phonics program that teaches children the alphabetic code of English. It is a full year's program for those in Preschool and Kindergarten. In Preschool, the children are only exposed to the 42 sounds, stories, motions by learning the Jolly Songs. In Kindergarten, in the first 9 weeks or so, the children are taught the 42 letter sounds and motions and how to blend the sounds in order to read words. They learn the 42 Jolly Jingles songs and learn about Tricky Words. Then they're taught the letter names. The children are taught how to read books by themselves. Jolly Phonics is mainly for 3-8 year olds, but is effectively used to teach reading to any age person.

There are 5 main skills taught in Jolly Phonics

1. Learning the Letter Sounds
2. Learning Letter Formation
3. Blending and Segmenting
4. Identifying Sounds in Words
5. Tricky Words

***Children have fun learning
to read and write with
Bee, Inky Mouse and Snake!***

1. Learning the Letter Sounds

The main 42 sounds of English are taught in an unusual pace and order. One sound is taught each day, with a short story, a song, and a hand motion. Letter names are not emphasized, but rather the sound the letter makes becomes the focus. Here are the 42 sounds of English:

Sound Group #1 – s a t i p n
Sound Group #2 – c/k e h r m d
Sound Group #3 – g o u l f b
Sound Group #4 – ai j oa ie ee or
Sound Group #5 – z w ng v oo **oo**
Sound Group #6 – y x ch sh th **th**
Sound Group #7 – qu ou oi ue er ar



All materials are affordable & can be purchased separately. There is computer software, Jolly Jingles & Jolly Songs which have CDs, workbooks, puppets, readers & interactive whiteboard software.

Notice the double letters and the highlighted letters – these are called digraphs and are an important part of the foundation that Jolly Phonics builds for learning how to 'crack' the code of reading. Those highlighted double letters just mean there's another way to say that sound!

2. Learning Letter Formation

As the sounds are introduced, the children are shown exactly how to form each letter correctly. By practicing in the air, tracing and feeling the letters in the Finger Phonics Board Books and by writing it, most children begin forming their letters correctly after the first 12 weeks or so. The correct tripod pencil grip is also taught, and practice is given tracing over dotted letters.

3. **Blending and Segmenting**

Blending is **seeing** a word and simply putting the sounds together, one by one, in order to read a word as you would do for 'c-a-t'. Segmenting is **hearing** a word and learning how to remember how to spell each sound so you can write the word, sound by sound.

4. **Identifying Sounds In Words**

It is essential that children can hear the individual sounds in words, especially for writing. Initially, the children are asked to listen carefully and say if they can hear a given sound in words. Start with words that have three sounds in them, for example, "Is there a 's' sound in 'sun' or 'dog'? Then they are trained to hear if the sound comes in the beginning, middle or end of the word. Children practice saying short words, sound by sound, holding up a finger to count each sound: 'h-a-t' three fingers; 'sh-i-p' three fingers; 's-n-a-p' four fingers. Writing the letters as the children say them gives a good understanding of how reading and writing work. A few examples each day help!

As soon as the children can hear the sounds in three letter words, they can start their dictation work found in **The Phonics Handbook**. Once a child can hear the sounds in words, and knows one way of writing each sound, they can write independently. In the beginning, they will not spell in traditional English, but instead use the sound spellings they've learned, for example: 'I went hors riedin that wos fun'. Accurate spelling develops as they read and write more & more and learn the alternative vowel sounds and spellings. This, in part, is what will be taught in **Jolly Grammar 1**.

5. **Tricky Words**

After their first month at school, when the majority of the children know about 18 letter sounds and have been blending and segmenting regular words as a group activity, they can begin to learn the Tricky Words. Tricky Words are words that cannot always be worked out by blending – sight words they have to memorize, such as: said, who, was, my. For the youngest children, these are not a major area of focus. But for those in second semester Kindergarten and First Grade, this is an important skill to master. In the Jolly Phonics program, there are 60 words in Kindergarten and an additional 12 in First Grade. Once a Tricky Word is taught, inventive spelling is no longer accepted.

Summary

At the end of the kindergarten year in the Jolly Phonics program, the child can:

- ✓ read and write the 42 letter sounds
- ✓ form the letters correctly, holding their pencil in the tripod grip
- ✓ blend decodable words fluently, like 'flag', 'boot, and mushroom'
- ✓ segment and write regular words like 'bed', 'flat, 'spoon', and 'campground'
- ✓ read and write independently and with confidence

Moving on to the next levels would lead to Jolly Grammar 1, typically used in 1st Grade followed by Jolly Grammar 2, used in 2nd Grade, and Jolly Grammar 3, used in 3rd Grade. These programs continue refining the reading and writing of English, introducing all of the parts of speech, proper spelling, alternate vowels and spellings, irregular verbs and plurals, and proper punctuation.