

## Jolly Phonics

**Category:** Language/Reading/Writing  
**Grade Level:** K to 2

### 1. What is the purpose of Jolly Phonics?

Jolly Phonics was designed to teach children how to read, write, and spell using a systematic multisensory phonics program.

### 2. With whom can it be used?

Jolly phonics was developed for children from junior kindergarten to grade 2. It can be used for children who have reading/writing difficulties and for children who are learning how to read/write for the first time. This program is also especially useful for teaching children who are learning English as their second language.

### 3. What is the format of Jolly Phonics?

There are five basic skills that are taught in Jolly Phonics:

- ◆ Learning the letter sounds

There are 42 English letter sounds that are taught to the children. One sound is taught each day through worksheets, kinesthetic actions, flash cards, games, sound books, and by using an alphabet frieze, which illustrates the action and symbol for the sound. The systematic order for learning the sounds is:

Week 1 s a t i p n

Week 2 c/k e h r

Week 3 m d g o u

Week 4 l f b ai j

Week 5 oa ie ee or z w

Week 6 ng v y x oo oo

Week 7 ch sh th th qu ou

Week 8 oi ue er ar

- ◆ Learning the letter formation

While learning the 42 letter sounds, the children are also learning how to form the letters; this is accomplished by air writing and worksheets. During letter formation, the children are taught how to write using cursive writing. A Canadian version has also been developed, which teaches letter formation using ball and stick printing.

- ◆ Blending for reading

Children learn how to blend the different sounds together in order to say different words. The children gain experience through the use of sound books, letter games, letter activities, and word boxes.

- ◆ Identifying the sounds in words - for writing

The children learn how to break down words into individual sounds in order to learn how to spell the word; they practise by writing simple sentences and having dictation.

- ◆ Tricky words - irregular words

Through memorization, the children learn how to read and spell words that do not sound the same as they are spelled (e.g., "was" and "come").

### 4. In what types of settings should Jolly Phonics be used?

Jolly phonics is best used in a whole group setting, with the teacher using direct instruction to teach the different sounds and applications. Acquisition and consolidation is facilitated in small groups and individually.