

Parents are children's first teachers

Parents need to help young children move from spoken language to written language. Hearing, saying and playing with sounds in words and sentences are vital skills that parents can develop in preschool children.

The *Carlos and Friends* book series has been written specifically for parents to help preschool children get ready to read in a fun, relaxed and effective way.

Hearing, saying and playing with sounds in words and sentences is known as Phonological Awareness. It is the foundation of all literacy learning. Phonological Awareness is about hearing sounds not learning letters, which is Phonics. Phonics is where children learn the letters and match the sounds to the letters.

Most children **learn to speak naturally** and progressively. All children need to be **taught** to read, write and spell. One of the first and most important things a parent can do is to develop strong Phonological Awareness skills in their children. This is not hard to do – it is all about talking and listening with children.

Words, letters and sentences are a mystery to young children. Parents need to show them what a word is. Children need to be able to hear and say rhyming words. They also need to be able to break words into syllables. Hearing beginning sounds in words that match is another skill to learn.

Activities for parents to do with their children have been provided on my website, **Getting Ready to Read** – www.gettingreadytoread.com

Reading these books and following the activities from the website will give children a wonderful foundation for exciting and confident literacy learning.

Enjoy reading the *Carlos and Friends* book series!

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