Dear Parents,

Welcome to Oxford Phonics World! Although we have carefully based this phonics series on our extensive experience working with young EFL learners as well as on the latest international research on literacy instruction, you were your child's first teacher and know your own child better than anyone. Even though English may not be your first language, with some care and attention, you can play an effective role in your child's English education. Our goal with this letter is to show you some ways to help you do this.

Think back to when you were a child, when you first started to read, and how being able to read and write opened up a whole world of learning for you. Before you learned to read, though, you learned to speak. Remember how easily and naturally you learned to speak your native language. Almost as if by magic, the words began to come out of you as you attempted to communicate with those around you.

Just as you learned to listen and speak before you learned to read, Oxford Phonics World starts with the spoken English language. At the earliest stages, the series helps develop children's phonemic awareness and their ability to hear and pronounce the sounds of English. Then, Oxford Phonics World continues to work with the spoken language as children discover, play with, and make the connections between the sounds of the spoken language and the letters that represent those sounds. Our goal is to give children a sense that written English is rooted in spoken English and that the two are interconnected.

As your child progresses in the course, he or she will learn to blend sounds together to make words and to write words from their own internal awareness. Later, your child will also learn that some sounds can be represented by more than one letter and that some letters can represent more than one sound.

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There are many ways that you can support your child throughout this course. First, be patient as you work with your child. Learning a language takes time and effort. Like building a house out of bricks, progress may seem slow at the beginning. However, once a strong foundation is in place, you will find that the long-term results are worth the initial effort. Next, pay attention to your child as he or she shares new knowledge and skills with you. Listen to your child pronounce new sounds and read stories aloud. Watch and praise your child as he or she practices writing letters, letter combinations, and full words. Use the series components, such as the Multi-ROMs, Readers, and tablet Book Apps with your child. Finally, support your child by consistently offering reminders of the progress he or she has made.

As your child’s ability and confidence grows, you may find that improvements in speaking and listening strengthen reading and writing and vice versa. In fact, all of these four skills are interconnected. With this series, our goal is not only to teach children how to read, but to teach them how to communicate effectively. For this reason, from the very beginning, *Oxford Phonics World* introduces language through meaningful and natural sentences, stories, chants, songs, and games that even children learning English as a foreign language for the first time will find easy to understand and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Kaj Schwermer