



Phonics

Phonics is an awareness of the sounds each phoneme makes in English. Ideally, your child should be confident in recognising the 26 individual sounds in English as they enter Year 1. In particular, they should be able to accurately pronounce the 5 vowels – a, e, i, o, u.

Children who have good rhyming skills, develop good reading skills. It is important that your child can recognise words which rhyme. Some activities to support this are:

- Learn nursery rhymes
- Change the rhyming word – make up your own version of a nursery rhyme. For example, Humpty Dumpty sat in the hall, Humpty Humpty made a phone call
- Download some clip art and make a list of rhyming words.
- Read your child some rhyming poetry.

Here are some activities you can work with your child on to improve their knowledge of the 26 sounds.

Sound Sort

1. Make some sound cards using different fonts (around 9 of each), and give the child 3 sets to sort – for example, s a t.
2. Pelmanism
This is also called 'Pairs' and is a memory game. The aim of the game is for the player to remember where the cards have already been seen. Shuffle the cards and place them face down and in rows on the table. Turn two cards over one after the other. If they are the same, the player takes both. If not, then they are turned face down and the next player takes their turn. This is repeated until all cards have been taken.
3. SNAP!
Shuffle the cards and give each player the same number of cards. Each player places their cards in one bundle table face down on the table. Take it in turns to lift a card and place it in the centre of the table. If both players put down the same card, the first to say 'SNAP' collects all the cards and adds them to their bundle. The winner is the player with all of the cards.

Magnetic Letters

1. Hold up a letter. Ask your child to tell you its sound, and a word starting with it.
2. Ask your child to put their hands behind their back. Pick up a letter and give it to them. They have to feel the shape and guess which letter it is, and say the sound.

Phonic dice

1. Make a dice from card and write a letter on each face. Roll the dice, say the letter and think of a word beginning with that sound.
2. Roll the dice and think of a word with the sound at the end
3. Roll the dice and think of a word with the sound anywhere in it.

Letter Hunt

1. Write some letters on pieces of card and pin them around the room. Ask your child to search for them, then tell you which sounds they have found. These can be random letters, or you can pin up those for specific words.
2. Identify the beginning sound of objects around the house. This can also be played by identifying the final sound.
3. Buy a newspaper. Choose one article, and find words beginning/ ending with a specific sound.

Odd One Out

Give the child 3 words, two of which have the same beginning sound. Ask the child to identify the odd one out. For example, bat cat bag. This activity can also be used for the end or middle sounds.

I went to the Shop and I bought

Choose a letter sound, and say the name of a food beginning with it. Repeat it for each letter of the alphabet.

Writing Letters

Make the letter using a variety of everyday household items:

Water - Put some water in the sink. Write the letter in the water.

- Use a bottle with a sports cap to write the letter on the ground

Stones - Gather up small stones and make them into the letter shape

Shaving foam – put some shaving foam on a tray and write the letters in the foam.