

Phonics and Reading at home

Fun phonics games and activities

1. Letter Races

This game requires a magnetic board, magnetic letters, and a lot of space! Set up the magnetic board on one side of the room, and place the magnetic letters in a basket or bowl on the other side. Call out a sound, or a word starting or ending in a particular sound. Then ask your child (with a ready, set, go!) to pick out the correct magnetic letters and run over as fast as they can to stick it on the board.

2. I Spy the Sound

'I Spy the Sound' is a fun way to build phonics skills and phonemic awareness. In this variation of the classic game, 'I Spy', ask your child to spy words that begin with a certain sound, rather than a letter. For example, "I spy with my little eye, something beginning with mmm."

3. Matching Rhymes

Rhymes help children understand that sounds in our language have meaning and follow certain patterns. Find a corkboard or something you can stick pins into. Write down a list of words on one side of a sheet of paper, and on the other side write down words that rhyme with these words, but in a different order. Then stick pins next to each word. Give your child some rubber bands and ask them to match the rhyming words on each side of the page by placing the rubber bands on the pins to connect the rhyming pair.

4. Phonics Hopscotch

This game helps children develop their ability to match letters to their sounds. All you need for this fun phonics activity is a piece of chalk and the ground. Simply draw hopscotch markings on the ground (how many squares and in what shape they are arranged is up to you). In each square draw a letter of the alphabet (you may want to draw both the upper and lower case letters in each). There are many ways you can play this game – you can call out a letter or combination of letters and ask your child to jump on those letters, and as they do, for them to sound out each letter. Or you can ask your child to jump on the letters in alphabetical order, sounding them out as they go along. You can also roll dice and ask your child to jump to the square that matches the number rolled, counting the squares as they jump and sounding the letter out at the end.

5. Phonics mix up

On paper or whiteboards- write the sounds of a word mixed up i.e. o p sh for shop. Pupils are to sound out the word and put in order – focusing on sounding out the word and blending. Focus either on CVC words, digraphs ch sh th ng



If your child is beyond these focus on the alternative sounds:

 a	 b	 c/k	 d	 e	 f	 g	 h	 i	 j	 l	 m	 n	 o	 p
	bb bu be	c k ck ke ch qu que cc	dd ed de	ea a ie ei	ff fe ph gh	gg gu gh gue	wh	y u	ge dge dg g	el ll le il al ul	mm me mb mn	ne nn kn gn	a ho	pe pp
 qu	 r	 s	 t	 u	 v	 w	 x	 y	 z	 oo	 ee	 sh	 ch	 th
	rr rh wr	ss ce se c sc st ps	te tt ed	a o ou ah oo	ve	wh	ks kes		s zz se ze	u	e ey y ie ea ei i	ti ci si ssi ch s	t tch	the
 ar	 oi	 oa	 ow	 or	 ng	 igh	 er	 ai	 ui	 ue	 si	 eer	Sound Chart NZ ACCENT Copyright © 2010 Kelly Rowlingson Resource Village www.resourcevillage.co.nz	
a ear al	oy	o ow oe ough	ou ough	ore au ar augh aw al oor oar our ough	n	i y ie ye eye ei	ir ur ure ear re or our	aigh ay a ea ei eigh ey ae e et	oo u ue ew o ou oe ough	u ew eu	s ge z g	ear ere ier air are eir		

Reading activities

- Choose a story- read a story- make a storyboard of that story. Draw pictures of that story and write sentences underneath the pictures of what happened in that part of the story.
- Draw pictures of the story- mix them up and encourage your child to sequence the pictures into order
- Make puppets of the story- use lollipop sticks and encourage your child to role play the story.
- Write down instructions on how to make a craft ie a rocket- encourage pupils to read the instructions and follow
- Make a puppet theatre with cardboard boxes or a towel over a chair and encourage your child to make up or retell a story to you or any willing family members!
- Play timed word games like *Boggle*. Set an egg timer to one or two minutes and tell your child a sound, e.g. short vowel o and ask them to think up as many words with that sound (e.g. top, job, coffee) before the timer goes off.
- Read letters/invites/cards, recipes when cooking and instructions for new games.
- At breakfast, read the back of a cereal packet or the funny jokes on products like Innocent yoghurt drinks.