

Sequencing the Letters in your Child's Name

Providing the individual letter cards for each letter of your child's first name can be a useful way to teach the sequence of letters.

Remember you will need to write a capital for the first letter and lower case for the rest.

Show your child how to make the name first, before shuffling the cards for him/her to have a try. For a very long name work with the first few and build up a letter at a time. You can then do this with other words.

If you want to print out the cards using a word processor use a font such as Century Gothic on PC which has **a** not a.

Make and break words

Make words with magnetic letters or letters on cards and then add or change one letter to make a new word. For example, begin with the word "car" and add a /t/ to the end to make the new word "cart" then take off the /c/ and replace it with a /d/ to make the word "dart" and so on. See how many new words you can make.

Speed writing

Have a list of sounds on pieces of paper *eg Words ending in at, op, ub etc.* Put them in a bag. Your child picks a sound and has to make as many words as they can in two minutes.

Word picture

Make a word into a picture *eg bed could be drawn to look like a bed*



News

Ask them to highlight all the sounds/words they know in a newspaper/magazine. Do this as a team – you could highlight in a different colour the words you think they will know.

Roll a dice

Write sounds on paper numbered 1 to 6. Take turns to roll the dice and think of word beginning/ending/middle with that sound. You cannot use the same word twice.

All of the ideas in this can be adapted to suit different levels of phonics. It is important to always be guided by where your child is at so that they are comfortable and enjoying the activities.

Some useful websites and Apps

http://www.ictgames.com/phonemeFlop_v4.html

<http://www.ictgames.com/machine.html>

<http://www.starfall.com/n/level-a/learn-to-read/play.htm?f>

http://www.ictgames.com/phonics_fighter4.html

<http://readingeggs.co.uk/> (this website has a cost but it there is a 14 day free trial which is worth trying out)

<http://www.ictgames.com/forestPhonics/forestPhonicsOnline/index.html>

<http://pbskids.org/lions/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/popup.shtml>

www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics-games.html

Phonics Hero

Pocket Phonics Lite

Long and shorts Phonics vowels by Abitalk

Phonics Genius (as with many Phonics games this has an American accent but you can record your own voice on it)

If you require further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.
Promoting Partnership between home, school and the community

It is vital that early reading experiences are happy and positive. This leaflet aims to guide you through Phase 1-3 phonics from sounding out letters to building more complex words. It gives you simple ideas to try in a relaxed 'playing together' way so that your child can enjoy themselves and learn at the same time.

The Sounds of Letters

Tips for teaching your child the sounds: When you talk about letters to your child, remember to use the letter sounds: **a buh cuh duh e ...** rather than the alphabet names of the letters: **ay bee see dee ee**. The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names. **eg. cat, would sound like: see ay tee.**

Letter and sound awareness

Read to and with your child as often as possible. Talk about words, letters, and sounds. For example, ask your child, "What words do you see on this page that start with the same letter as your name?" Or, ask, "What is the beginning sound in the word 'car'?" Or, point out, "That word has the letters /ip/ in it. What sound does that make? Can you think of other words with that sound?"



Environmental Print

Look for letters and words in your house or the local area. Point out and talk about the letters you see and the sounds they make as you read words on signs, labels, menus, and the TV.



Shopping

Have your child use phonics to help you look for items at the grocery store. Ask him to find the "corn" by looking for the letters on the labels. You could begin with the initial sound then build up to blends and words as they improve.



Common Objects

Collect several objects that begin with the same sound and make a card with this letter sound on it. Make a second group of objects beginning with a different sound and a card to go with those. Discuss the sounds of the letters on the two cards with your child and shuffle the objects. Separate the cards on the floor and ask your child to put each object near the sound that it starts with. This activity can help your child to "hear" the first sound of a word.

Odd-one Out

Say a number of words, all but one of which begin with the same sound. See if your child can pick out the odd one. It can be helpful to have the corresponding objects there for the child to look at.

I-Spy

Initially playing 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with' can be too difficult. You can make this easier by providing a clue. 'I spy with my little eye something that barks and begins with d'. As they develop you can say 'I spy something ending with "t", or with the "oo" sound in it.



Sounds Scrapbook

Write a letter at the top of each page of a scrapbook. Concentrate on a few letters at a time, collect pictures of objects that begin with those letters. Do not use as examples words where the first sound does not make its normal sound such as in giraffe, ship, cheese, thumb. Stick the pictures on the appropriate pages.

'What does it start with?' Box

You will need:

- ◆ A box
- ◆ Several items each beginning with a different sound
- ◆ Corresponding letter cards

This game is similar to the common objects game but the emphasis now is on recognising the sounds the letters make. Ask your child to choose an object from the box, to think what its first sound is and then to match the object with the relevant card.



Writing letters

Make letters in fun ways such as in clay, playdough, or sand and talk about the sound each letter makes and the sounds they make when they are combined. This also provides good opportunities to teach correct letter formation.



Provide children with lots of different implements to write letters with e.g. thick pens, thin pens, paint brushes, chalk etc. Get them to write big and small and in different colours. Repetition is key but changing the activity keeps it fun.

Children will be taught to blend the sounds to build words. When they begin blending the easiest words to start with are words where each letter makes one sound such as "c-a-t".

After they have covered the initial sounds they will learn about diagraphs –when two or more letters join to make a different sound such as : oo, ee, sh, th, ch, ng, ie, oa.

They will move on to blend longer words and words with diagraphs in them e.g. moon, tree etc.

As they learn more about sounds they will learn rules such as "magic e" and other common rules.

Try giving a sound and setting a target such as "Can we make five words with the "ee" sound in it?" You can give longer endings and ask them to make as many words as possible e.g. "ash" could make "bash", "crash", "lash", "splash" etc