



# Fun With Phonics!



Here are some ideas for you to try at home. You can have fun at home supporting your child's learning. These are some fun and interesting activities that help to develop the quick recognition of letter sounds and word building ability.

## Alphabet cards are a powerful and versatile tool.

- **Using the cards to teach sounds** - Use a set of flash cards to teach individual letter sounds as a rapid response activity. (Keep a pile of the ones they find tricky so that you can focus on these).
- **Using the cards to teach letter names** - Put the cards out on the floor to teach letter names, alphabetical order and which letter comes before or after. The children have to sort the cards and place them in alphabetical order.



The children can sing the alphabet song as they work, to reinforce the skills and letter positions.

When practising letter names, set the cards out and remove some cards or mix them up and see if they can sort them out.

Then see if they can progress to matching upper and lower case letters.

- **Sound and letter dash** - Use an outside space to put initial sound cards or letters on the wall. The children then have to run to the sound or letter. Make it harder by shouting out a word so that they have to hear the initial sound and identify the correct letter.
- **Letter twister and hopscotch** - Draw a large grid outside or on some paper using chalk or a large pen and put letters in each box so the children can run, jump and play 'twister' like games.  
For Letter/sound hopscotch, again chalk out a grid. When they land on a letter/sound, they have to say it correctly or say a word that has the sound at the beginning



- **SNAP** - A great way to teach rapid response to letter names and initial sounds.
- **I Spy** - Simple but effective, it can work well if you choose from a tray of objects to begin with.

**Alphabet Puzzles** - A simple but effective way to learn letter sounds. Identify the objects and the letter sound they begin with. Point to the letter and say the letter when the puzzle is completed.

**Foam Bath Letters and Crayons** - A great opportunity to learn phonics in the bath. Make their name, write in rainbow colours for each sound, make and write words.

### Tactile letters

- Physical movement will reinforce learning, so try making letters out of sand, playdough, flour, glue, paper, string, glitter, 3D gel-pens, bath crayons, chalks outside, sticks and mud, gloop (cornflour and water), shaving foam. Magic painting with water and a paintbrush or a 'squeezy' bottle is fun too? (old washing up liquid bottles)
- Use sand in a sand tray to form letters and sounds.
- Use flour in a baking tray to form letters or write words.
- **Draw a letter sound on your back** - Draw a letter sound on your child's back with a magic pencil (finger) and see if they can recognise it, or use their hands. Ask them to trace a letter on your back too.
- **Air Tracing** - practice forming letters in the air. Use ribbons to exaggerate the movement. This is great for practising spelling with children of all ages.



### Sound Lotto

Use alphabet card templates to play a variety of games. (You don't need a computer - you can draw them on paper and card. You can use a plastic wallet and a white board pen to use them over and over again).

- Laminate or use a plastic cover and a white board pen to play the sound game.
- Play the same game but with letter names.



- (Using words, the children have to record the initial sound of the word.)

### Cut and stick game

This is a great game for all levels.

Write words on cards. Start with 3-letter words

(cvc words, consonant,vowel,consonat) i.e cat. Cut them up and see what you can make.

- Mix up the cards so that new words can be made. Some will make sense and others will be nonsense words, ie play, tay, but should still follow the spelling pattern used.
- Make words in rhyming sets i.e cat,hat,mat,sat.
- If you child has problems learning their spellings then this will really help. Write the words, cut them up and then stick them back together.



- Magnetic letters on the fridge are wonderful for spelling opportunities in the kitchen.

- Make a rainbow alphabet arc with magnetic letters. Ask the children to identify a letter and put it under the rainbow. Ask them to find the letters in the rainbow to make words under it.

- Try using cardboard boxes (small and large) covered in white paper as letter and sound generators. Children usually resistant to spelling will use these happily!

### Word machines

- A great way to teach CVC (c-a-t), CCVC (sh-i-p), CVCC (w-i-sh), vowels and final adjacent consonant ie silk.
- You need some card, make long strips for initial consonants. Place a vowel sound in the middle then finish off with a final consonant, ie c-a-t or cl-o-ck
- The children then slide the strips up and down to generate their own words. This is easy to make and gives great results!

### Have a Go

- Use a large sheet of paper, some pens and brainstorm. The large paper allows the children to explore the spelling process and they enjoy filling their page with spelling attempts.



### Quick-Write

- Use a white board to record dictated letter sounds. This is a great way to improve their sound and letter discrimination and increase the rapid response.



### Flash cards

- Play rapid recall games with all levels of phonics. Encourage the children to keep a score and see if they can better it.

### Puppet Play

Say the sounds in "sound talk" ie m-oo-n, ask your child to blend them orally.

### Sound Buttons

They can make words with magnetic letters. Draw round buttons under the letters. Touch the sound buttons and then draw a line to link them as you say the word, segmenting and blending them correctly.

### Key Points to Remember

Teach your child to write the letters in lower case to begin with, not capitals. They do need to know capital letters and how to write them but they will use them initially for the first letter of their names, it is important that the rest of the letters in their names are lower case.

### Pure Sounds

Remember to use the correct pronunciation of the sounds ie 'mmm' not 'muh'. This makes blending sounds to read words much easier.

### Correct Pencil Grip

Make sure your child is holding their pencil correctly, between their thumb and forefinger, with their middle finger behind the pencil, supporting their movements.

**We hope you enjoy using some of these ideas.  
Have fun together.**

**Miss E. Lark**

**Mrs K. Cooke**

