

Playing at home with Phase 1 Phonics

Listening walk- Explain you will be listening for sounds, at the park, in the garden around the house. Listen in wonder and ask open questions starting with “What can you hear?” Model drawing the sounds you can hear and encourage children to draw pictures if appropriate. Talk about sounds in the environment.

Musical statues with a twist- Play their favourite music, ask them to clap and dance to the music listening to the beat, when the music stop strike a pose and freeze.

Read a rhyming book- Pause just before you say the rhyming word to see if they can shout it out! You can also sing nursery rhymes and pause to encourage children shouting out the rhyming words!

Walk in the outside- Write on a piece of paper individual letters making different sounds (s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d, e, h, c) put them in a box, bag, hat...pick one out and walk and find things that start with a certain sound. Count how many things you found. You could keep a chart and do this each day.

Shopping bag- Play the game ‘I went to the shop and I bought...’ using a shopping bag and objects. Each item must be recalled in order.

Sound story time- read a story and ask your child to play an instrument that they choose or alternatively use (wooden spoon and a cooking pan) to make a sound of something in the story. For example, making loud and quieter sounds, making fast and slow sounds...

I spy- Take turns to play I spy with my little eye focusing on different sounds, for example phase 2 initial sounds, s, a, t, p, i, n

Tongue twisters- Give yourself a name with a tongue twister i.e. Silly, special sunshiny Sam! Help your child to come up with theirs. Use their tongue twister name when calling out their name going forward.

Dress up- Put some dressing up items into a bag. Child to pull out items e.g. hat. If they call tell you the initial sound ‘h’ they can put it on.

What’s in the box- Have a box with some items in you can sound out. Say “inside the box is a h-a-t”. Can they tell you what is in the box? Have a look if they are right. Repeat with other objects.

Can you find- Hide some objects around the room or outside (hat, pen, mat, rug, pan, pot, cup, tin, ball, doll, sock..) ask your child to find the object but say it in sound talk (saying the sound of each letter at a time, for example h-a-t)

Animal sound- Put some play animal toys in a bag, pick one and when they do they have to make the sound that animals makes.

Sounds like- Ask your child to find an object in the room, e.g. 'car'. Can you find another object in the room that starts with the same sound, e.g. 'cup', 'card'...

These are some links to practice initial sounds:

In Foundation 1 we teach phase 1 of phonics in preparation for Foundation 2. One of the aspects of phase 1 is teaching initial sounds. We use pure sounds and these links could help with that. These are the initial sets that we teach in Foundation 1.

Phase 1 Letter Sounds Set 1 (s, a, t, p)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4fvEI8MIvs>

Phase 1 Letter sounds set 2 (i, n, m, d)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=daOv3apd78s>

Phase 1 Letter Sounds set 3 (g, o, c, k)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-kQoyBYKJI>

Phase 1 Letter Sound set 4 (ck, e, r, u)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBFSOgGnbzU>

Phase 1 Letter Sound set 5 (h, b, f, l)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qFzy8NbIz5I>

Alongside pure sounds, we use Jolly phonics songs and actions to help children memorise through active learning.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVyry9jpVjI>

(This video explains how to pronounce each pure sound and shows each matching action from the Jolly Phonics scheme)

This is a video from Jolly phonics with songs matching each letter sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Qpn2839Kro>