

'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 on the previous page, 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 (remember it is the sound you are looking for rather than the alphabet name) and then to match the object with the relevant card.

Oral blending and segmenting

I Spy

Lay out a selection of objects with names that contain 3 sounds (e.g. cat, dog, hat, cup, zip)
Play the game by saying the sounds individually.
"I spy with my little eye something that begins with c...a...t" encourage your child to say the sounds and blend them together to hear the word. When your child becomes familiar with the game, use words that start with the same sound (e.g. cat, cap, cup, and cot) this will encourage the children to listen and blend the sounds right through the word, rather than rely on the initial sound.

The same process can be applied during everyday conversation with your child and as they become confident you can increase the number of sounds used.:

"Please pass me the s...p...oo...n"

"Time to brush your t...ee...th"

Encourage your child to try sound-talk themselves by giving them a word and seeing if they can segment the sounds they can hear.

Rhyme sound games to play at home

Rhyming Soup

Try saying this rhyme together; support your child to think of extra objects that rhyme.

"I'm making lots of silly soup
I'm making soup that's silly.
I'm going to cook it in the fridge
To make it nice and chilly"
In goes a fox...a box...some socks..Etc

Singing Rhymes

Sing and say rhymes together regularly, make the game more active by inventing your own actions to go with the words.

Spend time identifying rhyming words in everyday conversation with your child.

Odd One Out

Put out 3 pictures or objects, two with names that rhyme and one with a name that does not. Ask your child to identify the odd one out (the one that does not rhyme) this can be extended to a larger group of objects as your child grows more confident.

Rhyming Pairs

Use pictures or objects with names that rhyme. Take it in turns to turn over 2 cards and keep them if they are a rhyming pair.

Further ideas for games can be found on the internet by searching for "letters & sounds games"

If you require further information or advice please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or key person.

Kemsley Primary Academy

Learning through play

Phonics in the Early Years



The start of phonics

Before children start to learn the skills needed for reading, there are several important skills they need to acquire to support this process. These aspects underpin all the phonics learning they will do in the future. They need to be able to recognise & discriminate between different sounds in their environment & when exploring instruments. They must understand rhythm & rhyme and they must be able to hear the sounds in words and be able to say them clearly. This first phase of phonics is started while your child is in the nursery and will continue in reception alongside the development of the recognition of letters and using their increasing knowledge to support the development of reading and writing.

The sounds of letters

Tips for teaching your child the sounds:

- ◆ It is important at first, for a child to learn lower case or small letters rather than capital letters at. Most early books and games use lower case letters and your child will learn these first at school. Obviously you should use a capital letter when required, such as at the beginning of the child's name, e.g. **Paul**. When they are secure with these they will be introduced to the letter names.
- ◆ When you talk about letters to your child when reading & writing, remember to use the letter sounds rather than the alphabet names of the letters. The reason for this is that sounding out words is practically impossible if you use the alphabet names.
e.g. cat, would sound like: see ay tee
- ◆ When saying the sounds of **b, d, g, j** and **w**, try to emphasise the main letter sound and avoid adding an "uh" sound at the end.

Alliteration sound games to play at home...

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 begins 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

For small children the usual way of playing that starts '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'.

Teatime teats

To the tune of "Polly put the kettle on..."

Make up verses together to illustrate alliteration...

Polly put the Pizza in...

Simon sizzles sausages...

Sounds Scrapbook

Write a letter at the top of each page of a scrapbook. Concentrating 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, and thumb. Stick the pictures on the appropriate pages.

Games for recognising letter shapes...

Fishing for Sounds

You will need a few cards with individual letters. Attach a paper clip to each card. Using a small stick with a string and magnet, your child fishes for letter sounds. If your child can say the sound of the letter he/she wins the card, otherwise you win it. This can be extended to creating words using the letters.

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.

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. 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.