

Help Your Nursery Child with Phonics

Listening Walk



Take your child on a listening walk around an indoor or outdoor setting. Encourage them to listen attentively and talk to you about the different sounds that they can hear.

Recycled Instruments



Help your child to make a recycled musical instrument by adding rice to a water bottle to make a shaker, or using an empty tissue box and elastic bands to make a guitar. As they play their instrument, encourage them to experiment with ways that they can change the sound it makes, for example by placing it under a blanket.

Body Percussion



Help your child to practise copying sounds by playing with rhythms. Clap out a simple rhythm. Can your child copy and clap it back to you? Take it in turns to be the leader, making up rhythms for the other to copy.

Nursery Rhymes

Sharing nursery rhymes with your child is a great way of introducing words that rhyme. Play around with traditional nursery rhymes by stopping before the final word of each line. Can they finish the line with a word that rhymes?



Syllable Basket



Put together a basket of items with names that contain a different number of syllables, such as keys, pencil, hat, sticky tape. Go through each item, supporting your child to clap out the syllables as they say each item. Then, play a guessing game, clap out the number of syllables for one of the items - can your child guess which item from the basket it might be?

Silly Shopping

Help your child to begin to notice alliteration by playing silly list games. Tell them that you are making a shopping list, but you will only add things beginning with the 's' sound, such as sausages, spaghetti, spiders. Can your child suggest other items for your shopping list? Repeat the game for different starting sounds.



Sound Effects



When reading stories with your child, encourage them to add sound effects with their voice, whether it be animal, weather or transport noises.

Time for School

As the time gets closer for your child to start school, start introducing some oral segmenting and blending into everyday routines. For example, when getting ready to leave the house say, 'put on your c-o-a-t'. Can your child blend the sounds to say 'coat'?



That's My Name!

When your child starts school it will also be useful if they can recognise their own name, as they will see it on coat pegs, book bags and jumpers. Draw attention to their name around the home and help them to recognise the initial sound in books and on packaging and signs.

