

Fun Phonics Activities



Typical Phonics Lesson

1. Hear the sound in words,
2. Say the sound,
3. Identify the letter/letters that make the sound,
4. Write the letter/letters that you hear,
5. Review, review, review (look for everyday opportunities to practice the sounds of letters).

Matching Games

Spread a series of pictures on the floor or table (these could be cut out from magazines/newspapers). Ask your child to find all the pictures that begin with a particular sound, for example, **b**. You can extend this activity by placing more than one letter down and asking your child to find pictures that begin with each of the letters.

Jigsaw Puzzle Matching

On a flashcard, print a letter on one half, then glue a picture on the other half. Cut the flashcard in half. Vary the cut line (straight, angled, wavy). Your child can match the picture to the letter. This is a self-correcting exercise, as the pieces must fit together.

Stepping Stones

Print letters on six or seven flashcards and lay them on the floor. Ask your child to see how far he or she can get along the path by saying the sound the letter makes and telling you a word that begins with that sound.

*Adaptation – for K – say name only

Treasure Hunt

Ask your child to look for objects in the house or in the garden with a particular sound.

Newspaper Hunt

Give your child a blank sheet of paper with a sound printed at the top. Ask him or her to look through magazines or catalogues to find and cut out pictures beginning with that sound.

What's in the Zoo?

Ask your child "What is in the zoo that begins with **c**?" Continue the game using other letters of the alphabet. Vary the game using other themes. For example: the supermarket, a farm, a clothing store, a toy store, the beach

Rhyming Words

To complete this activity, you can cut out pictures from magazines/newspaper. Ask your child to sort out a series of pictures that rhyme.

For example: Place a picture of a cat on the floor. Ask your child to sort through other pictures to find ones that rhyme.

Do not give your child more than five or six pictures to sort at one time. Make sure a few pictures do not rhyme with the original picture you placed on the table or floor.

Sew A Letter

On a styrofoam tray, dot out a letter or use a punchhole.

For example: the letter **f**

Give your child a piece of yarn that is longer than the length needed to sew around the letter. Your child could also use a shoelace to 'sew' the letter.

Pipe Cleaner Letters

Give your child several pipe cleaners and ask him or her to make a particular letter or word.

I Spy

I Spy something that begins with the same sound as **dog**.

Cut and Glue Letters or Words

Ask your child to look through magazines or catalogues to find as many letters as possible. For example, ask him or her to find the letter **d**. Your child can also look for a particular word, for example, the word 'and'. When your child has found four or five identical letters or words, ask him or her to paste them onto a piece of paper.

Alphabet Books

Help your child make a booklet. Print a letter of the alphabet at the top of each page. Ask your child to find pictures that start with that letter and glue them onto the appropriate page.

Playdough Letters and Words

Print two or three words on the chalkboard or on a sheet of paper.

Ask your child to make the words from playdough.

Alphabet Sort

Pour a pile of alphabet spaghetti (uncooked) or alphabet cereal onto the table. Ask your child to sort various letters:

For example: all the **r** letters

On a separate sheet of paper, ask your child to print the letters he or she has sorted, then draw matching pictures.

Personal Dictionary

If your child is ready, you could have him or her use pictures to make a **personal dictionary**. A large scrapbook would be ideal.

Have your child cut out the picture and paste it onto a page in the scrapbook.

Ask your child to print the word beside the picture.

Trace letters in salt or sand on a cookie sheet.

Word Families Booklets

Cut a strip of construction paper or light cardboard about 5 cm wide X 14 cm long. On the right-hand side, print the last two letters of a word family.

For example: at

Cut six strips of construction paper half as long as the size of the first strip.

Staple the smaller strips to the left-hand side of the large strip.

On each of the smaller pages, print the following initial consonants.

For example: **m, c, b, r, s, p**

Now your child has an interesting mini-book that he or she can read. Make as many of these word family mini-books as you wish.

Word Squares

Cut out a square of construction paper or light cardboard. Print the word ending on the square. Print initial consonants on a flashcard, leaving a good space between each letter. Cut a square frame next to the word ending. The flashcard containing the initial consonants is pulled through the opening to make a word.