

Learning Ideas for Phonics and Maths

To help support learning at home, we have compiled a bank of ideas and games to encourage the learning of phonics and maths. These games can be adapted and applied to different concepts to help support your child's learning.

Phonics

Sound splat – write sounds on paper, say the sound and your child has to identify the sound and splat the sound with a fly swatter.

Sound hunt – flash a sound to your child, they then have to go around the house to find an object beginning with that sound.

Jump the sound – have sounds on the ground (either outside chalked on the pavement or written on paper lily-pads/stones) say a sound and your child has to jump onto that sound.

Wash the sound – write the sound with chalk pen on a window or table, chalk on pavement, say the sound and your child has to wash the sound away with either a brush, sponge or cloth.

I spy – play the traditional game of I spy, can the children identify words that begin with the sound you've said.

Sound sort – have buckets/boxes/baskets and a selection of objects. The buckets/boxes/baskets should be labelled with sounds, the children then need to sort the objects into the correct sound bucket/box/basket.

Corners – either inside or outside, have sounds in different corners or areas of the room, say the sound. Your child then has to walk, hop, skip, jog to that sound whilst saying the sound and doing the sound action.

Snap – write sounds on flashcards, make 2-4 copies and play sound snap with your child.

Packet hunt – Have grocery packets out and say a sound, can your child find the sound on the packets?

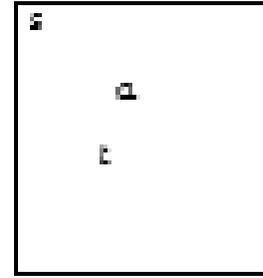
Cup tower – use paper or plastic cups, write a sound on each cup. Your child has to build a tower or castle using the cups, but can only add a cup if they say the sound and do the action.

Phonics popcorn – use bowls or popcorn cups and yellow paper. Have the sounds already on the yellow paper, can your child find a sound they know, say it and do the action then scrunch the paper up and place in their popcorn bowl. How many pieces of popcorn can they get?

All these games can be used to focus on sounds,, tricky words as well as sounding out words e.g. cat.

Games for segmenting and blending

Drive through blending – put a word on a piece of paper or on the floor, spread the sounds out and then ask your child to drive a car to each sound, getting faster to blend the word together.



Pound the sound – write a word across paper e.g. cat would be on three pieces of paper, can your child pound the sound on each piece of paper to blend the word together.

Robot Words - Adult role

1. As the robot leader, say this rhyme in a robot voice and have your child respond: "I am a robot. Can you help me? Can you tell me what I see? I see a /c/ /a/ /p/."
2. Encourage your child to repeat the rhyme in "robot talk" and then blend the final word to answer the robot's question.

Shout it out – say the following rhyme;

If you think you know this word, shout it out!
If you think you know this word, shout it out!
If you think you know this word,
Then tell me what you've heard,
If you think you know this word, shout it out!

After singing, the adult says a segmented word such as /h/ /a/ /t/ and the child provides the blended word "hat."

Jump the word - Get the children to stand up and then give them a word, e.g. 'tap'. They jump three times whilst saying 't-a-p. Tap! T-a-p. Tap!' I always like to repeat any words that are being segmented or blended a few times. Repetition breeds confidence which in turn generates success.

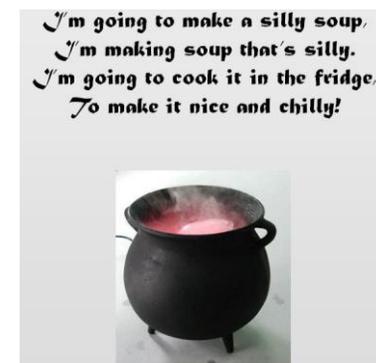
Robber - Have a selection of objects or pictures, put them in front of your child and ask them to point to each one and say what it is. Tell them they have to try and remember the objects as you are now going to take one away. Get your child to close their eyes, take one away and hide it. Ask your child to tell you which object is gone by segmenting it and then blending it back together e.g. d-o-g = dog!

Rhythm Sticks - For this game you can use two wooden spoons, sticks from the garden, crayons etc. Ask your child to sound out a word you say and then segment this back to you, tapping the sticks with each sound they say e.g. r-o-ck.

Cross the river - Have a piece of blue material / blue clothing / draw a river on paper on the floor / table. Have objects on one side of the river and ask your child to segment and blend the word so that that object can cross the river e.g. k-i-ss = kiss.

Playdough push – Use magnetic letters to spell a word and get your child to segment the word by squashing the playdough saying each sound and then blend back together.

Silly soup - Normally a rhyming game, this has been adapted for phase 2 words. Use a mixing bowl and wooden spoon, sing the rhyme on the picture and then ask your child to pick an object or picture, sound it out and blend it back together.



Guess the word - parents to say the word segmented e.g. t-i-n, can your child then repeat t-i-n, blend back together.

Take away - Get your child to sound out the words using magnetic letters, letter cards etc., then you say the word but miss the initial sound off e.g. get would be e-t. Can your child point to the word, segment with the initial sound added on and blend back together?

Word hunt - have letter cards or magnetic letters in front of your child as well as objects or pictures. Point to an object or picture and get your child to say what it is, then segment the word and blend back together using the letter cards or magnetic letters.

Washing line - make a mini washing line e.g. sticks and string. Get your child to use the letter cards to sound out the words that you say and blend them back together by hanging the letter cards on the washing line.

Bouncy Blend - Use hoops / draw circles with chalk, place a sound at each hoop and get your child to jump into each hoop, saying the sound next to that hoop as they do, when they have jumped all the hoops, as they jump out, blend the word back together e.g. j-i-g = jig

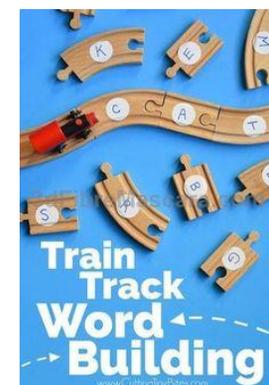
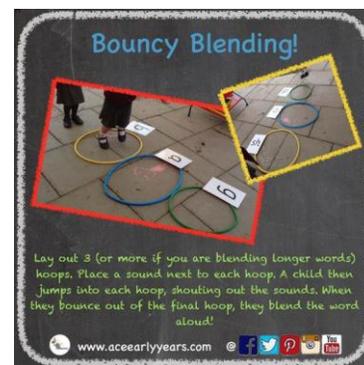
Sound out snap - use an elastic band to place over your hands, use the word cards to sound out words and move your hands out with each sound – then snap the elastic band back by clapping your hands to say the word.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=tbwhFVCquSk&feature=emb_title

Climb to the top - have words attached to the stairs (see words below) get your child to sound out each word and blend it back together, once they have segmented and blended the word correctly, they can climb the step. Your child can play again and see how quickly they can get to the top!

Train track - use sticky spots to put sounds on train tracks, and move the train over each sound to segment the word and then blend it back together.

Word Jenga – write words on Jenga pieces, pick a piece and sound the sound the word out.



Formation

Drive cars around sounds, encourage starting points and driving the correct way around the letters/numbers

Writing trays – use baking trays, shallow boxes or containers and add; flour, salt, glitter, shaving foam, rice etc. encourage your child to use a pencil, paintbrush or finger to form letter sounds/numbers in these trays.

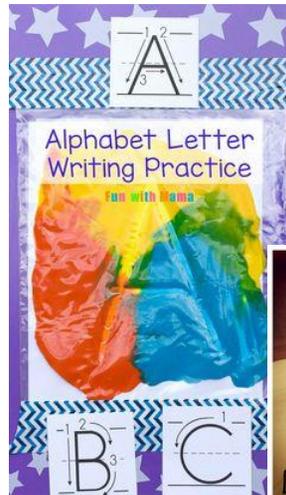
Wash the sound/number – write the sounds/numbers on blackboards, pavements etc. and get your child to use paintbrushes or cotton buds to trace over the sound/number with water.

Ziplock bags – pour paint into ziplock bag, seal at the top with strong tape and get your child to use a cotton bud or finger to form letters/numbers.

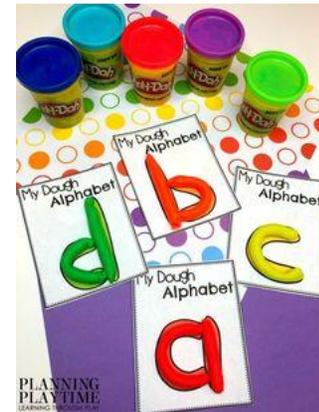
Playdough letters/numbers – use playdough to form letter shapes/numbers.

Write upside down – tape paper under a table and get your child to write letter shapes/numbers under the table

Draw with cars – attach a pen to the back of the car and drive the car to form the letter/number.



**PAINT
WRITING
TRAY**



Maths

All these activities can be adapted and applied to different maths concepts e.g. number recognition, 1 more and 1 less, doubling, addition and subtraction etc.

Number sort – use basket/boxes/trays that are labelled with numbers and gather objects to match to the numbers.

Lego stamp – use Lego and stamp into some playdough – count the number of impressions made by the Lego and form the number or match the number.

Pancake maths – write numbers on one side and dots representing numbers on the other side of circular card or paper and use a spatula to flip the number that is said.

Dominoes – play dominoes, encouraging matching of dots and counting the number of dots. Encourage your child to form the number that they have just placed down.

Number hunt – go for a walk and see if you can find any numbers in the environment e.g. bus numbers, house numbers, numbers on signs. Take pictures and when you get home create a number board of your day.

How many ways – use toys and numbers and encourage your child to make numbers in lots of different ways.

Number line – encourage children to use post it notes to create a number line – get the children to work on formation and stick the numbers in the correct place. Take it a step further, ask your child to close their eyes and take a number away. Ask your child to open their eyes, what number is missing? How do they know?

Number splat – place numbers on paper, say a number and get your child to splay that number with a fly swat.

Corners – place numbers inside or outside, say a number, your child has to identify and stand by that number. Can they then form that number and then match some objects to that number?

Race to fill – have some cups and dice, roll the dice and fill the cup with Lego – who will win?



Useful websites

At Western, we use a range of resources to help support our teaching. Below are a few websites that are great to support your child's learning. Some of the resources are on Youtube, please watch these videos with your child to ensure that adverts are suitable.

Phonics

Phonics play - <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Geraldine the giraffe - <https://www.youtube.com/user/breakthruChris>

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtf>

Alphablocks - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b01cz0p1/alphablocks>

Hairy Letters - <https://www.nessy.com/uk/apps/hairy-letters/>

Pinterest - <https://www.pinterest.co.uk>

Maths

Topmarks - <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

White Rose Maths - <https://whiterosemaths.com/reception-sol/>

NRICH - <https://nrich.maths.org/13371>

Numberblocks - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b08bzfnh/numberblocks>

BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zks4kmn>

Pinterest - <https://www.pinterest.co.uk>