

Help Your Reception Child with Phonics

I Spy



I Spy is great for identifying and hearing initial sounds in words. It helps your child to tune in to the beginning of words and identify the sound. Play it at home, on a walk, in the car...anywhere!

Say the Sounds

Say the sounds correctly at any given opportunity for your child to hear. In all games and activities, make sure you pronounce speech sounds clearly. There are videos online that will help you to check this.



Singing

Songs and nursery rhymes help your child to hear the sounds in words and build up a bank of familiar vocabulary. Encourage them to join in with actions - you could try and make up your own nonsense rhymes too!



Play

Play rhyming games with children. For example, play a game of 'silly soup' and pretend to put in objects that rhyme (such as a bat, a hat, a cat, a mat). Play this with your child and then see if they can do it independently.



Sound

Sound boxes can be a fun way to look at initial sounds with children. Start by filling a box with shredded paper. Alternatively, you could play in a sand pit or the bath (depending on the objects you choose). Then, add objects that begin with two different initial sounds. Write the two sounds on pieces of paper or whiteboards for your child to match the objects to. For example, if it was a duck, it would match to 'd'.



Sound Hunt

Hide some letters around your house or garden and see how many letter sounds your child can find and identify.



Read

Read to your child. It is important to keep enjoying books together. This helps your child to learn the rhythm and order of stories. It also helps with their vocabulary development for writing and builds their imagination.



Listen

Listen to your child read. In reception, your child will start bringing books home to read. Try to find time to hear them read every day. It could be snuggled up on the sofa, at bedtime or before school.



Joining In

Joining in with stories and songs can be a great way to support children. When you are reading to your child, ask them to join in with phrases that are repeated. For example, 'Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the Gingerbread Man!'. Traditional stories, such as 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Three Little Pigs', often have repeated phrases and children will love doing the voices!