



10 Phonics Activities

TO TRY AT HOME

Phonics is a critical component of reading that can be fun and easy to integrate into playful activities. Here are ten activities to help children learn core concepts while keeping them engaged and eager to learn.

1

Letter Hunt: Take a paper plate and write the letter of the alphabet on the and cut slits and fold down the letters. When the family is out and about in the community have the child “Letter Hunt” then can fold down all of the letters they find while on their outing!

2

Focus on Rhyming: While reading books have the child listen for the rhyming words. Ask, “Did you hear a word that rhymes with fox?” Teach your child nursery rhymes and practice saying them together. Or say four short words, like log, cat, hog, frog. See if your child can pick out the word that doesn’t rhyme.

3

Follow the Beat: Make syllables easier to understand by clapping the “beats” in words. Let’s say you choose the word elephant. Pause as you say each syllable — e-le-phant — and clap out each syllable together.

4

Get into Guesswork: Guessing games such as “I spy” can be used to work on almost any phonological skill. Want to practice noticing what sounds word begin with? Try “I spy something red that starts with /s/.”

5

Carry a Tune: Singing in general is a great way to get kids rhyming. There are also good songs used to focus on other kinds of phonological and phonemic awareness skills. “Apples and Bananas” is a fun one.

6

Connect the Sounds: Sound blending is an important skill for early readers. They need to put sound units — phonemes — together to be able to read a word smoothly. Ask the child to connect the beginning sound with the rest of a word.

7

Break apart Words: Have your child work on hearing a word and taking it apart. Start by using compound words such as cowboy, baseball or firefly. Ask the child, “Say the word cowboy. Now take away boy. What word is left?” You can also use LEGO bricks to make this point. Give your child two attached LEGO bricks to represent parts of the word. Then have your child physically take the LEGO pieces apart while removing part of the word.

8

Get Creative with Crafts- Try making a collage of items that start with the same sound using pictures from magazines. Find pictures of items that start with the letter, “A a, B b...”.

9

Make a Grocery List: Before going to the grocery store, make a shopping list with your child. Try cutting pictures out of grocery store paper inserts and gluing them on to paper or letting the child dictate the shopping list while you write.

10

Alphabet Hunt at the Grocery Store- Go on a great sound adventure in the grocery store. Before going, or even on the way, let the child pick a sound or two to “hunt” for on the shopping trip. Their job will be to hunt for items in the grocery store that begin with the chosen sound.

- Once the child has chosen a sound you might say something like this: “Today let’s hunt for food that starts with the sound /mmm/ like ‘Mmmary’. We’ll look for foods that begin with /mmm/. I can think of a food that begins with /mmm/. ‘Mmmilk’ begins with /mmm/. We’ll shop around the grocery store and hunt for foods that start with /mmm/ like ‘milk’ and ‘Mary.’”