

Learning To Read

Phase 1 Listening Skills

Before children learn to read we have to tune their ears into listening and discriminating different sounds. This means, they hear a sound and can identify what it belongs to or where it is in the room. Please find below some different games that you could play.

Stage 1 Games

Listening Walk

Go on a listening walk, this can be in your garden. Ask your child to listen. Can they hear the birds tweeting? Can they try to copy the sound? Can they hear vehicles? Do the vehicles sound close, or a long way away? Can they guess what sort of vehicle it might be? Does its sound like a large vehicle such as a truck or is it a car?

Use this link from the Tiny Happy People website to see a listening walk with a child. www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/listening-walk/zh47jhv

Listen at home

Switch off the TV and listen. Can your child tell you what sounds they can hear? Which sounds are the loudest? Follow a sound and work out where it is coming from.

Hide the sound

Make a sound with something from your home, such as an egg timer or musical toy. Ask your child to close their eyes whilst you hide the item that is making a sound. Challenge your child to find it as soon as possible.

Collect sounds

Collect items from in your home. This could be a bunch of keys, a jar or rice, a packet of crisps, a squeaky pet toy. Explore them together. Close your eyes and let your child rattle one of the items. You then have to guess which object it is. Once your child has understood the game you can change roles.

Sing songs

Sing your child's favourite songs and use actions or instruments to make the activity as much fun as possible. Nursery rhymes are a great way to encourage

your child to join in, as they will hopefully hear them often. Try missing a word and see if your child can fill in it in. Humpty Dumpty sat on a _____

Stage 2 Games

Rhyme and rhythm

Helping your child to hear words that rhyme is crucial to their reading learning journey as it helps them to spot patterns in the spoken word. They will also hear many new and exciting words. The more you rhyme, the more that your child will be able to produce their own rhyming words.

Sing songs with actions

The wheels on the bus,
Old MacDonald had a farm,
If you're happy and you know it,
There were ten in the bed,
Five little ducks went swimming one day,
Head shoulders knees and toes.

Odd One Out

Put out three items that your child recognises, two with names that rhyme and one with a name that does not. Ask your child to point to the 'odd one out': the name that does not rhyme. For example, cat, hat, umbrella. Cat and hat sound similar and rhyme so your child would need to point to the umbrella.

I spy

Say "I spy with my little eye.. something that rhymes with..." Help your child to find words that rhyme. The more you play, the more confident they will become!

Pass the Pebble

Collect a pebble from your garden or local walk. The person holding the pebble says the first word and passes it to the next player who must rhyme e.g. player one says cat and passes the pebble to player two who says mat. The winner is the last person to think of a rhyming word.

Stage 3 - Alliteration

What your child will be learning - to focus on the sounds that words begin with. For example, Tom, teapot and tiger all begin with a 't' sound. Your child will also learn to move their tongue and mouth to make sounds correctly.

Name the toy

Help your child to give their toys names that begin with the same sound as the item. Daisy doll Sammy spider Dave the dinosaur Holly hamster.

Simon Says

In this game for each action that you want your child to copy, repeat the first sound several times. Simon say sss stand up. Simon says jjj jump. Simon says hhh hop.

Funny Sentences

Make up funny sentences together using the same sounds e.g. Seven silly sausages sit silently sleeping.

Stage 5 Oral Segmenting and Blending

Segmenting and blending are the opposite of each other.

Oral segmenting is where the spoken word is broken down into smaller the smallest unit called a phoneme. You can practice this by splitting up small words e.g cat would be said as c-a-t.

Oral blending is when you put all the sounds together to make the word e.g. c-a-t would said as cat.

Ideas for when you could segment and blend

Today we are going to see n-a-n.

Can you get our c-ao-t?

Have you seen the d-o-g?