

Let's Play with Sounds



Phonological awareness is more than just hearing sounds. It's about helping children notice, play with and understand the sounds in words. Here are some top tips and fun activities to support your child's **sound awareness and early reading skills**.

During daily activities, listen carefully and talk about the sounds you hear, such as the sound of birds tweeting.

When singing songs together, try moving to the rhythm, clapping or tapping your feet to feel the beat.

Help your child to hear the sounds in words by saying them slowly and clearly.

Explore different ways to make and describe sounds. For example, tapping a table with your fingers to create quiet and loud sounds.

Top Tips



If you speak other languages at home, using your home language(s) alongside learning English can help to support your child's language development.

Activity Ideas

Shake and Match: Fill small containers with things like pebbles, sand, cereal or pasta to make sound shakers. Some should sound the same and some different. Then, let your child shake them and have fun finding the matching sounds!

Sound Treasure Hunt: Have a treasure hunt based on the first sound of your child's name. Make a collection of objects that all start with the same sound.

Roar, Hiss, Oink!: Put toy animals in a bag. Secretly pick one and make its sound. Let your child guess the animal and together make the sound and move like the animal! Your child can then pick one for you to guess.

It's Time to Rhyme: Sing some nursery rhymes that have rhyming words in them. Try missing out a rhyming word and create your own songs by adding in a different rhyming word, for example 'Twinkle, twinkle, racing car'!

Repeat the Beat: Play a sound game by clapping a pattern for your child to copy. For example, three slow claps. Then, have them clap a pattern for you. To make it trickier, try longer patterns or mix fast and slow claps for a fun challenge!



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