

Games to play with your child

Oral Blending games

Robotic talking - Say words as if you were a robot (saying the sounds separately) and see if your child can work out what you are saying. Stick to short simple words that only have a few sounds in them. Make sure you are saying the letter *sounds* (p-e-n) NOT the letter *names* (pee-ee-en). E.g. Pass that p-e-n to me.

Sit d-ow-n.
Point to your t-ee-th.
Hop like a f-r-o-g.

I spy – Say the rhyme ‘I spy with my little eye something beginning with _____’ allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess what you have chosen, for example, ‘something beginning with t’ could be a tree, toy, tent or train.

Point out print everywhere - Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find familiar words on each outing such as ‘open’, ‘bus stop’ or ‘street’.

Playing with words – Encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

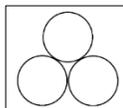
Phoneme recognition games

Looking for letters – Ask your child to look for English letters whilst you are out and about. Can they find letters from their own name, letters they have learnt in school or letters that specific words begin with?

Fast letter sorting -

You will need:

A large piece of paper with three circles drawn on
12 small pieces of card with letters written on (4 sets of 3 letters)
Choose 3 sets of letters – 2 which the child knows and one new one. Spread the letter tiles out on the table making sure they are all the correct way up. Encourage your child to sort the letters into the correct circle using both hands, saying each letter as they move it.



Letter discrimination

You will need: A 3x3 grid

Write the letter you are learning with your child onto half of the spaces (for example “s”). Fill the rest with other letters. Ask your child to cover all the “s”s with a counter as quick as they can.



Ladder letters

You will need: A ladder template

Make a pile of letter tiles (use a mixture of known and new letters). Place a counter at the bottom of the ladder and move up a rung for every letter they can read correctly. This game can be changed to covering spots on a ladybird, petals on a flower – go with your child’s interests if possible.



Letter sound bingo.

You will need: A 3x3 grid for each player & counters or coins

Write some of the letters into the spaces on each card, making each card slightly different. The ‘bingo caller’ says each letter in turn and the players cover the letter up. The winner is first to fill their board. To make this game easier for new readers, show them the letter for them to match.



Tricky word games

Bingo – You will need: A board for each player and counters or coins

Write some words into the spaces on each card, making each card slightly different. The ‘bingo caller’ says each word in turn and the players cover the words up. The winner is first to fill their board. To make this game easier for new readers, show them the word for them to match.



Matching pairs – Write each word twice on a piece of card/paper. Turn all the cards face down on the table and take turns to turn over two. When a matching pair is found that player can keep them. The winner is the person with the most pairs at the end of the game.

Snap - Write each word twice on a piece of card/paper. Shuffle the cards and share them out. Each player takes turns to turn over their card, put it down and read the word. If it matches the previous card played, the first person to notice shouts 'snap!' and wins the pile. This game is best used to practise words your child knows fairly well, rather than new ones, as it's quite fast-paced.

Further ideas...

Be your child's No.1 fan - Ask your child to read aloud what he or she has written at school or for their homework. Be an enthusiastic listener.

Create a book together - Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.

Make up stories on the go - Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.



Useful Websites



www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/learningathome/index.asp

www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home

www.scottishbooktrust.com

Online Games

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm

www.starfall.com

Please note that this is an American website so there may be differences in spelling and pronunciation.

www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

Helping your child at home

An activity guide to support Early Reading and Phonics



Lorne Street Primary School

