

Playing at home with phase 1 phonics

Nature walk – Explain you will be listening for sounds, in a woodland area which is safe. Listen in wonder and ask open questions starting with what, where, how, why, when... Model writing on the clipboard the sounds you can hear and encourage children to draw pictures if appropriate.

Musical statues with a twist - Play their favourite music, ask them to clap and dance to the music listening to the beat, when the music stop strike a pose and freeze.

Read a rhyming book – Pause just before you say the rhyming word to see if they can shout it out, anything will go.

Walk in the outside – Pick a sound out of a hat, take a Dictaphone on a walk and record things that start with a certain sound. Count how many things you found when you return. You could keep a chart and do this each day.

Shopping bag – Play the game ‘I went to the shop and I bought...’ using a shopping bag and objects. Each item must be recalled in order.

Sound lotto game – Soundtracks game and farm lotto games are excellent fun to play and teach children many other skills too.

Sound story time – read a story and ask your child to play an instrument that they choose to make a sound of something in the story.

I spy – Take turns to play I spy with my little eye with the sounds.

Tongue twisters – Give yourself a name with a tongue twister i.e. Silly, special, sunshiney Sam! Help your child to come up with theirs. Use their tongue twister name when calling out their name going forward.

Dress up – Put some dressing up items into a bag. Child to pull out items e.g. hat. If they can tell you the initial sound they can put it on.

What’s in the box – Have a box with some items in you can sound out. Say “Inside the box is a h-a-t”. Can they tell you what is in the box? Have a look if they are right. Repeat with other objects.

Can you find – Hide some CVC objects around the room or outside, ask your child to find the object but say it in sound talk or using robot arms to segment the word.

Animal sounds – Put some farm animals in a bag, pick one and when they do they have to make the sound that animals makes.

Sounds like - Ask your child to find an object in the room i.e. Car. Can you find another object in the room that starts with the same sound i.e. Cup?