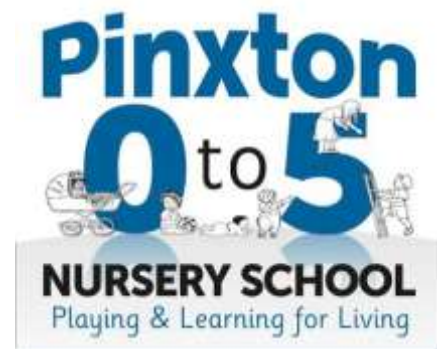


Phonics Activities for you to support your child with at Home



Letterland

Within Nursery we use the Letterland phonics as a basis for our learning. Each letter of the alphabet is given a character to help children identify it. We have one focus sound each fortnight, and these are shared on our home activities sheets. More information about Letterland can be found on <https://www.letterland.com>, and products are also available on www.amazon.co.uk.

Letters and Sounds

We also follow Phase 1 of the Letters and Sounds document, which focuses on listening skills and phonological awareness. These are the first skills that your child will require, in order to begin to read and write, as they allow them to tune into different sounds. Below you will find the 7 key aspects, and a selection of activities to help your child.

Body Percussion

This focusses on using your body to create sounds, and helps children to listen to the rhythm of words. Why not try some of these suggestions?

- Listen to some music at home and clap along to the beat.
- Play Follow the Leader. One person chooses some body percussion (knee patting, clapping, clicking fingers etc.) and the rest of the family have to copy.
- Sing the "Pat-a-Cake" rhyme, clapping hands in time to the beat.
- Use your voice to make different sounds, such as a dog, a car or a ghost.



Voice Sounds

This helps children to find how their mouth moves to make different sounds, and helps strengthen their facial muscles to pronounce different sounds. It also helps them to listen for sounds.

- Use your voice to create sound effects e.g. can you make a sound like a doorbell or a clock? Listen to sounds in your home and try to copy them.
- Sing Old Macdonald, making the different animal sounds.
- Play an animal guessing game. Make an animal sound - can you guess what I am? Encourage children to think of different animals such as snakes, lions etc. as well as more familiar animals.
- Try making some different sounds to show different feelings and emotions, e.g. 'oh' when surprised, 'mmm' when eating something yummy and 'shhhhh' when trying to be quiet.



Environmental Sounds

This helps children to tune into sounds in their own environment. It also gives them opportunities to notice the differences between the sounds.



- Go on a Listening Walk! You could go around your house, or even just your garden, and sit quietly just listening to the sounds you can hear. Talk about what you heard. Were they loud or quiet?
- Make your own noise maker collection. Think about objects that make a sound, such as crisp packets, keys,

coins, a rattle or a squeaky toy. Use one of the objects to make a noise, and let your child guess.

- Talk about sounds you like and sounds that you don't like. Draw pictures to match the sounds.
- Play the game 'I hear with my little ear'. Take it in turns to imitate the sounds of something and guess what it is. It could be something you could hear in your house or a favourite animal.



Instrumental Sounds

This area encourages children to think about if sounds are loud or quiet, and how to change sounds.

- When listening to a story or rhyme, try to play some instruments to represent parts of the story, e.g. a drum could be thunder.
- Look at musical instruments that you have at home, and talk about how they are played. If you don't have any instruments at home, why not try



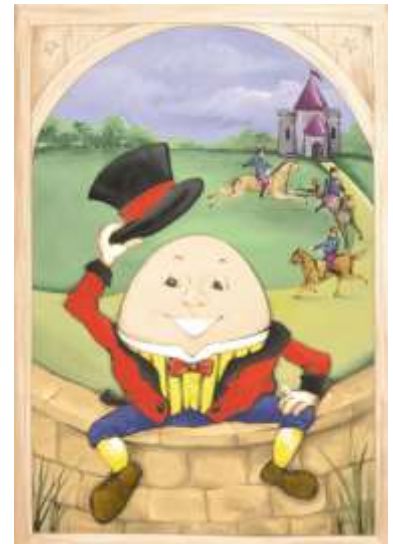
to make your own. You could make a shaker using an old bottle and some rice?

- Play a listening and copying game. You make a sound, and then encourage your child to copy the sound using their own instrument. Play the instruments loudly or softly.

- You could put on a musical show for your friends and family - either in real life or virtually.

Rhythm and Rhyme

Rhythm and rhyme play a huge part of your child's learning. Hearing the beat of a word helps when writing the sound, and rhyming helps children to make connections between words that we hear.



- Sing Nursery rhymes at home. When confident, why not try to change some of the words for new rhyming words, e.g. Humpty Dumpty sat on a chair, Humpty Dumpty fell off there.....
- Listen carefully to the list of words - which one is the odd one out e.g. dog, frog, hat, log?
- Are there any rhymes or poems that you sing or say at home? Could you write them down for your child to share with their friends?
- Play a rhyming matching game. You could use the cards below or find some objects around your home to play the game.

Alliteration

This is the start of children discriminating sounds, and beginning to hear sounds in words. Alliteration means words beginning with the same sounds, such as Simple Simon, Cheeky Charlie etc. when children can hear initial sounds, these are the first sounds that they are able to write.



- Zoe the Zookeeper needs some help - she wants to name all of her animals with a name that begins with the same sound as the animal they are such as Tommy Tiger, Lucy Lion. Try to do this with other animals that you have at home.

- Charlotte the Chef is making some silly soup, and everything has to begin with the same sounds, e.g. 't' soup is made

from toffees, tomatoes and toast. What might she put in the 'c' soup?

- Go on a letter sound hunt - choosing one sound. What can you find around your house that begins with this sound?

Oral Blending and Segmenting

This is the final stage that children need to understand before learning sounds to read and write. This stage focusses on breaking up a word into sounds, then piecing them back together. This is all done orally with no writing/ reading.

- Listen carefully as you sound out simple words such as pin, sat, net, tap. How many letter sounds are in each word? Count them on your fingers e.g. c-a-t, 1, 2, 3.
- Ask the children to help you pack a bag with things you need, but only talk in sound talk, e.g. c-u-p, p-e-n, m-a-p, h-a-t - encourage your child to put the sounds together to make words.



- Play a listening game - I went to the farm and I saw a c-a-t - cat. Repeat with other animals such as dog, pig, hen, cow, sheep.
- Try a drawing game. Take turns - one to sound out a word, and the other person to draw the item, e.g. s-u-n

Once your child has mastered all of these skills, they will begin to learn sounds, and will be able to use these to learn to read and write. Any of these activities that you can support with at home will enable your child to make these letter connections much more easily within Nursery, and as they move up to school.



car



house



cat



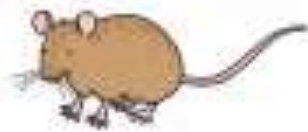
box



frog



bat



mouse



star



fox



dog