

Letters and Sounds - Activities to try at home

- **Splat the letter!** Write graphemes on individual pieces of paper/post its, you say a letter sound and your child splats the correct grapheme with a fly swat!
- **Box of sounds** - place cards with letters on into a box. Children choose a letter and say the sound it makes. They could then match the letter to an object or picture of something beginning with that sound.
- **Sound sorting** - gather a selection of objects from around the house and sort them into tubs labelled with the letter sound that the object begins with.
- **Bucket of sounds** - Label 3 or 4 buckets or ice cream tubs with a grapheme on each, say a sound and your child throws a ball in to the matching bucket and says the sound.
- **What's in the box?** Place 'post its' with simple words on, in to a box or bag. Children choose a word, sound talk it and blend the sounds to read the word. They could then match this to a picture or an object. This game can be adapted to use segmenting. Children choose a picture from the box, sound talk it, they could match it to a word, or have a go at writing the word.
- **Common word bingo** - write 4 common words on a piece of paper, then write them and a few more on to 'post its', place in to a bag. The bingo caller says a word then your child crosses it off, if they have a matching one, on their bingo board. Start off with the bingo caller showing them the word, then see if they can identify the word without it being shown.
- **Run to the word** - write 4 words on separate pieces of paper, or write them in chalk outside. You 'sound talk' a word and your child runs to the word and reads the word by blending the sounds together.
- **Silly sentences** - Choose a word or picture and make up a silly sentence using that word.
- **Quick write** - say a letter sound and your child has a go at writing the letters that make the sound.
- **Countdown** - make a list of words. See if your child can sound talk, blend and read them before the time runs out on an egg timer.
- **Against the clock** – set a time, call out one word at a time for your child to spell with magnetic letters – how many words can they spell correctly before the time runs out? Challenge them to beat that number next time.

- **Hunt the word** - hide words in sand or flour, set a timer, hold up the word that you want them to hunt for, and 'go'! Repeat the word and encourage them to say –'I am looking for the word 'the'
- **Robot talk** – find objects around your home that have three, four or more sounds (depending on the level your child is working at) and practise 'sound talk' e.g. 'I spy a p-e-g', or 'Can you put your hands on you h-ea-d?'. As they progress they can take on the directing role.
- **Add race** - practise use of rules e.g. when adding -ing. Draw three columns on board labelled with different rules (do nothing; remove 'e'; double consonant). Give them a set of verb cards and ask them to select which column each one belongs in. Which column fills up first?
Could also be used to select appropriate prefix. Draw required number of columns, with a prefix in each (eg un, dis, mis) and give children root words to place in each column.
- **Spelling rule alphabet** - Children write an alphabet of words that fits with the spelling focus, eg awful, beautiful, careful, dreadful
- **Spelling Baseball** - Draw 4 bases or use 4 pillows/markers. The pitcher selects a word. If the batter can spell a word correctly, move forward one base. One point earned for every time you pass the home plate.
- **Back Writing** - Use your finger to spell out each word on a partners back. Can they guess what they are?

Supporting Spelling – Activities to try at home

Look, say, cover, write, check - One of the most effective ways to learn spellings, but it needs to be monitored to ensure that children are completing each stage correctly

I spy with my little eye - Tell me something that rhymes with...eg train

Phoneme spotter - Reading text – highlight words with specific phoneme (eg train, gate and may)

Make a poster - Children create a poster which explains a spelling rule or alternative phoneme/grapheme correspondences

Quick-write - Children write focus words as quickly as they can, eg high frequency words or those linked to current spelling focus, eg stopped from stop, jumped from jump

Word hunt - Use a page of text for children to search for specific word types, eg compound words, irregular past tense forms of verbs, words with suffixes

Change the word, change the sentence - Particularly useful when working with prefixes and suffixes, eg Kyle was happy when he found out that dinner was ready; Kyle was unhappy when he found out that dinner was ready

Clap and count - Each child has a card with a word on it. They take turns to read it aloud and the whole class claps and counts the syllables.

Spelling rule alphabet - Children write an alphabet of words that fits with the spelling focus, eg awful, beautiful, careful, dreadful

Snap - Card game using words that match in some way, eg same phonemes, homophones, opposites

Guess the word - Similar to Hangman but each letter has to be guessed in order, starting with the first

Newsy Words - Use old magazines or newspapers to cut out letters/words and glue into jotter.

Connect the dots - Write ten of your spelling words in dots. Then connect the dots with marker.

UPPER and lower - Write spelling words in upper case and lower case

Finish - Give word framework to children, eg st__p and ask them for ways to complete the word. This could be with one letter or several.