

Early Phonics Ideas

Some children, for various reasons, do not have the foundation skills needed to develop their literacy when starting at school. Phase One of the 'Letters and Sounds' document is fundamental to the future success of literacy skills for children. Below is a few phonological awareness games and activities to build open children's phonological awareness.

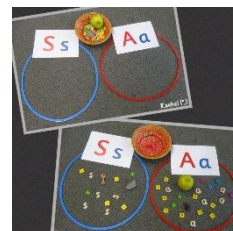
Fishing for sounds- Use your tough tray and shiny paper to create a pool, add some magnetic letters. Show the children a sound card. Give your children magnetic wands to 'fish' for the letter to match the sound.

Sound Dice- Add initial sounds to a regular dice. When the children roll the dice they need to find an item with the same initial sound. This may need to be prepared so items with the sounds on the dice can be easily found.



Sound walk- Take the children on a sound trail. Ask them to listen for sounds they can hear, e.g. Birds, leaves blowing in the wind etc. You can extend this by having a tick sheet for them to mark when they hear the sounds.

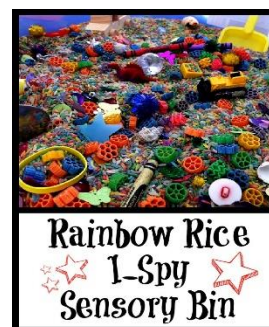
Sounds Sort- Have a variety of objects and ask the children to sort them into groups using their initial sounds.



Sand writing-Use flashcards to show children what the letters look like. Ask them to copy the letter into the sand. Give the sand a shake and it is ready for the next letter.

Try adding some glitter to the sand to make it more exciting. Use shaving foam as an alternative.

I-Spy sounds tray- Encourage children to find items with a particular sound within a tray of coloured rice. This can be made more difficult by using items with various sounds as children become more confident. A sheet of items could be made and laminated for children to mark off.



Digging for sounds- Let the children sieve and dig in the sand for items. When they find an item you can tell them the initial sound and they can repeat it. This could be teamed with the sand writing above to extend.

