

Ideas for learning phonics

- 1) Magnetic/foam letters - these can be used for so many games and activities. Try putting them into the sand pit (or a simple garden potting tray can be used indoors for a sand tray), put them in the bath, on the fridge.
- 2) Water painting the path. A bucket of water and an old paint brush make great tools for practising letters on the path outside.
- 3) Build words with Bob (or change to any relevant character!) - using duplo/lego bricks that have letters written on them, encourage the child to build simple 3 letter words e.g. c-a-t. (A yellow plastic builders hat, makes this game heaps of fun!)
- 4) Alphabet bear (or any stuffed animal/puppet) give the bear a handful of alphabet cards and pretend that the bear is whispering to you....he wants to hear words that begin with the different letter sounds.
- 5) Magic bag - A special bag filled with different objects that have clearly identifiable letter sounds at the beginning of them. Have corresponding letters on the carpet that the children have to match the objects to.
- 6) Croaker - a puppet frog (or any puppet) that keeps on getting the sounds of words wrong. Children always think that this is so funny and love to correct the puppet. Hold up an object or give the children a word and ask them to help Croaker.....
- 7) Alphabet food - there are lots of varieties of alphabet spaghetti etc. But, you can also have food that start with a certain letter for snacks - maybe a different letter everyday? a- apple, b - banana, c - crackers etc.
- 8) Phonic cards - any set of alphabet cards can be used to play countless games -there are often ideas on the back of the packets. It's easy to make your own too....you can then play snap, pairs, go fish, families etc.

9) Out and about - constantly ask your child to name letters that you can see in your environment - you can start off by asking 'what does that say?' then, encourage them, with your support to start by identifying the initial sound and then the end sound. Eventually, he or she will start to attempt these their self.

10) The computer - there are simply heaps of websites available to use to support phonic learning. Here are some that you might like to try:

- <http://www.funfonix.com/games/>
- <http://www.starfall.com/>
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/>
- http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html
- <http://www.knowledgeadventure.com/phonics-games.htm>