

Phonics Activity Ideas

Below are listed a selection of different games and activities that you could play whilst practising your phonics and spelling skills. Most of the activities could be adapted to help you to practise your phonic sounds, common exception words (on class pages) or your spellings.




Just a reminder:

Phoneme (the sound letters make)

Grapheme (the sound written down)

Digraph (two letters together that make one sound e.g. ai, sh, th, oi etc.)

Trigraph (three letters together that make one sound e.g. igh, air, ear, ure)

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Outdoor Writing</u></p> <p>Can you write sounds, tricky words or common exception words using chalks or water and a paint brush?</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Read the Grapheme</u></p> <p>Can you read the graphemes (on class page) in words? Can you think of and write sentences using these words? What other words can you think of containing the same grapheme?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Phonics Snap</u></p> <p>Print out, or make, two sets of sound or word cards. Play with a partner – if you get a matching pair, shout SNAP! The person with the most cards at the end is the winner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Pairs Games</u></p> <p>Print out, or make, two sets of sound or word cards. Turn them over, face down on the table or floor. Take it in turns to turn over two cards – read the word or the grapheme. If you find a matching pair, you keep the cards and have another go. The winner has the most pairs at the end.</p> <p><i>Top tip: Keep watching so you can remember where all the cards are!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Go on a Word Hunt</u></p> <p>Ask an adult to stick up some flash cards containing the sounds (around a room/outside etc.) You could even use post-its. An adult could say the sound/word – can you find the matching card? How quickly can you find all the sounds/words?</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Rubbish or Treasure? Real or Alien Words?</u></p> <p>Can you sort the real and made-up (alien) words?</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Treasure Hunt</u></p> <p>Hide words in the garden and around the house – can you follow clues to find them?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>I-Spy Graphemes</u></p> <p>Look on food packaging or in books / magazines / comics / newspapers – what graphemes can you spot?</p> <p>Which one is the most common / easiest to find?</p>

Silly Sentences

Can you write silly sentences (or sentences that make sense!) that include some common exception words? Look on your class page for the word lists.

Anagrams

Ask an adult to write an anagram of one of the common exception words – can you work out what it says?!

What order should the letters be in?
e.g. rodo – door, yeth – they etc.

Make a Wordsearch

Create a word search for 'ai' words (or any grapheme), your spellings or common exception words.

Don't forget to write a list of the words that you have included so that you/someone else know which words to look for when solving it!

Build a Word

Write alphabet and digraphs on paper squares/post-its to make individual sound cards. Use your cards to create words.



Can you think of words where your grapheme is used in the middle or end of words? Is it ever used at the beginning?

Rhyming Strings

One person to think of a word – how many words can you think of that rhyme with that word?

e.g. dog, log, hog, jog, fog / snail, wail, jail, sail, tail.

Leaf Words

Write letters on leaves and thread 'leaf words' onto sticks or onto string.



Magnetic Fish

Attach a paper clip to word/sound cards. Using a fishing rod (magnet attached to end of peg/lolly stick/pencil), catch the fish/cards and read the sound/word.



Kim's Game

(either with words or graphemes)

Write words or graphemes on cards. Look at the selection of cards. Partner to cover up with a cloth, before removing a card.

Can you work out which one has been taken away?
Can you write it?

Lucky Dip

Hide cards in a box of shredded paper. Pull out a word / grapheme – what does it say?
If it is a grapheme, can you think of a word that contains the sound?



Cars

You could stick words or graphemes onto cars. Can you park 'he' in the garage. Race 'ai' and 'ow' – which car wins? Remember to keep reading the words or recognising the sounds as you play.

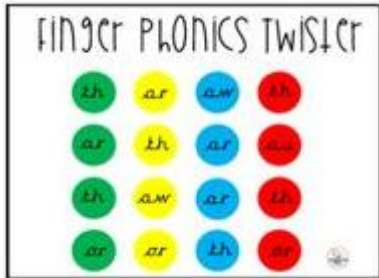


Phonics Twister

Can you create a giant floor game and stretch your hands and feet to find different graphemes or words?



You could make a smaller version and play finger twister!!



Splat the Sound

Spread grapheme cards on the floor – use a fly swat to ‘Splat’ the sound when it is called out.

How quickly can you find it?



Try this with words / spellings too!

Capital Letter / Lower Case Match

Write the alphabet twice – once in lower case and once in upper case (or ask an adult to do this for you).

You could write them on post-its to stick around the room – Can you find all the matching post-its?

To make it even harder – give yourself a time challenge e.g. in 3 minutes!!

You could try this game with graphemes too – can you find them all and match them to a word containing the same sound?

Build a Word

You could use Duplo, Lego or other building blocks to create your own words – each block equals a sound e.g. f-r-o-g, s-n-ai-l, n-igh-t etc.



Writing Trays

Write graphemes, words or common exception words in a tray filled with sand, glitter, oats or rice. You could use your finger, a paintbrush or an unsharpened pencil to write.



You could write with paint onto ice – frozen in a container.



Rainbow Writing

Can you practise writing words, using different coloured pens or pencils?

You could write in wax crayon - if you paint over.... watch the words reveal themselves!



Phonics Pegs

Use 'sound pegs' to create words – remember to sound out words using your robot arms – can you create words?



An adult could also 'make' a word, using the pegs, missing out a letter. Can you work out the missing sound?

You could do this for common exception words too, except remember that you cannot sound out these words.

Phonics Notebook

You could cut old notebook pages into 3 or 4 sections. On each section write different letters, digraphs or trigraphs. Flip the sections over – can you read the words? Are they real/alien words?



Top Tip: Keep a vowel sound/digraph in the middle section! (a, e, i, o, u, ai, ee, ea, igh, ie, oa, oo, ou, oi)

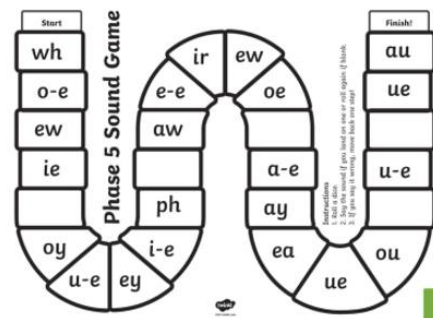
Phonics Jenga

Add graphemes or words onto Jenga blocks – can you read them as you pull them out? Can you make a sentence with any of the words left when the tower falls over?!



Make your own Board Game

You could design your own board game – the sections could contain graphemes or words or both! If you land on a sound/word you have to say it. If you land on a blank, roll again. If you get the sound or word wrong, move back one space!



You could make your own snakes and ladders game too with words/sounds in some of the numbered sections as you move along the board.

Washing Line Sentences

You could write some of your common exception words and other words onto folded paper. Can you create your own sentences? Can you take off one word and replace it with another one – does it still make sense?



Three in a Row

Play with a partner. One person to choose a sound (don't forget to say it out loud). Can you think of a word containing that sound? Put a counter on the square. The next person has a go. The winner is the first to get three in a row.



You could play this with words or graphemes and also like noughts and crosses instead of counters.

Mirror Phonics

You might need some help with this one...! An adult could write a word backwards. Can you guess what it says? Use a mirror to check to see if you were correct!



Hopscotch

Practise learning to read common exception words, tricky words and graphemes.



Phonics Bowling Alley

You could use plastic cups, flower pots, skittles or empty bottles.... Aim your marbles or ball at words or graphemes.



Quits or Hoops

Perhaps you could aim for a word or a grapheme.



You could also make cards to put on the ground and aim to bounce a ball or throw a bean bag onto a given word or grapheme.

Syllables

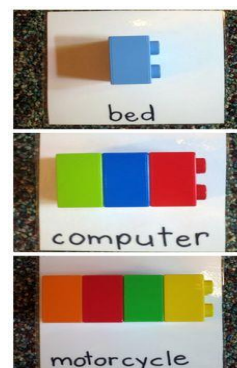
How many syllables do you have in your name?
Who has got the most syllables in your family?

2 minute challenge:

How many words can you think of with 2-syllables? Challenge someone else – how many can they think of? Try words with 3 syllables.

Build in Syllables

How many syllables does a word have? Build a tower to match.



Additional Phonics Resources - Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

- *Letters and Sounds* YouTube channel
- *Interactive games and activities for Phases 2-6:* <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>
- *Decodable comics – can be read on screen or printed out – Phases 2-6:* <https://www.phonicsplaycomics.co.uk/comics.html>

Spelling and Grammar Practise

Adjectives, Nouns and Verbs

How many words can you think of for each pot?
Could be written on lolly sticks or folded pieces of paper in a box or pot.



Pull one from each pot – can you write a sentence, that makes sense, using these words?
e.g. The hot sun shines brightly. The green frog jumps.

Singular and Plurals

Can you make folded strips to create singular and plural words? Can you create a sentence for each?

Year 1: -s or -es ending

Year 2: -ed ending

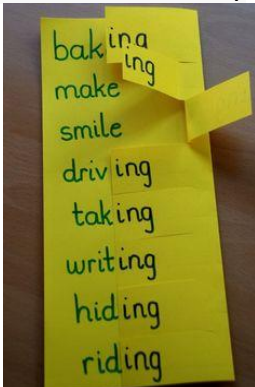


Suffixes

You could use a selection of different suffix endings.

Year 1: -ing, -ed, -er and -est

Year 2: -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, -ly



Year 2 - Building Block Contractions

Use building blocks to create common contractions and their full word:



Year 2 - Contractions

You could also make folded strips to make contractions e.g. I am – I'm



Year 2 – Homophones

How many can you think of? What does each word mean?

For example:

here / hear

see / sea

bare / bear

to / too / two

be / bee

night / knight