

Active Phonics Activities

ALPHABET SHOPPING

Write the letters which have been practised in class (e.g. *s a t i m n p o c*) on pieces of paper or card in lowercase letters. Encourage your child to find items in the house which start with the letters on the cards.

Instead of focusing on letter sounds, you could focus on letter recognition. (Look at the cards. Duck starts with d. Can you find the letter d?)

You could work on words instead of individual letters. (You have a duck in your trolley. Can you find the word duck?)

Hide letter cards around the room and have your child shop for them. (Can you find the letter d to place in your shopping trolley?)



MAGNET LETTER MATCH GAME

Clear the bottom portion of your refrigerator.

Neatly write the alphabet letters to match those of the magnets you have available. Have your child match the magnet to the letter written on the refrigerator. Focus on the letters already practised in class and in their name.

Next you could try all capitals, all lowercase, the letters in order (for beginners), letters scrambled out of order (for children who are more familiar with their letters), or a mix of lower case and upper case letters scrambled.



RHYMING WORDS

Choose a book from your child's collection. Look at and discuss the pictures together. Ask your child to place a counter on the part of the picture that rhymes with a given word (or they could also simply point to the part of the picture that rhymes with a given word), for example, *flies/eyes, mat/hat, fox/box, sand/hand*.



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ALPHABET SOUP

Using foam letters in the bath, pick out three or four and ask your child to identify a certain sound, e.g. take out s, a, t and i and ask your child to find the "s."

You could also try saying a word and asking your child to find the letter that the word starts with e.g. "mouse" and your child finds the letter "m."



WORD FAMILIES

Place a variety of sticky note letters on the wall or table along with one note card with one word family ending on it (e.g. -at, -am, -ap, etc.). Have your child move the sticky letters to the front of the note card and practice reading the word. Some of the words your child makes will be positively silly and not make

sense and some of them will be actual words. Just have fun playing around together and practicing sounding out new words. Once you've done one word family ending for a while, choose a new one and try reading new words. You can even have your child create a silly sentence using the new words that they come up with!



SIGHT WORD BALL

Write the common words on an inflatable ball using a permanent marker. If your child is not yet reading confidently, have them point to a word and you tell them what it is before they toss the ball. If your child is already reading, have them read the words on the colour they catch. If your child knows all the words, have them create a sentence with as many words as they can from the colour they picked.



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PHONETIC FLIP BOOK

Divide your phonics flip chart into three sections for three letter words (but you can also split them into four sections to work on consonant blends.) After you cut the number of sections that you want, label each card with a letter (a-z). You could add another section of vowels in the centre section and several common blends on the ends (e.g. ch, sh, th, gr, cl, etc.).



The point of the phonics flip chart is not so much to "spell" words, but to practice sounding out words. "P-A-G" is not a word, but the practice of sounding it out can help our kids in future words, helping them grasp the concept of letters and how they form words. Your child will be especially pleased when they realise they are sounding out a "real" word.

WORD BUILDING BLOCKS

Tape lowercase letters to wooden building blocks or Lego pieces. You may want to make doubles of some more common letters. Encourage your child to use the blocks to build words that they know, e.g. their common words, familiar names, etc.

