



BROOK INFANT SCHOOL

Games to play with your child

Big ears - Cup your hands around your ears and listen to sounds all around. Talk about what sounds you can hear. Try doing this in the house, in the street, in the park, on the beach etc. Talk about the sounds: Are they loud or quiet? Are they short or long? Can you make a similar sound with your voice?

Tap it out - Use a shaker or a drum (pots and pans and wooden spoons are perfect) to play along with songs, rhymes and the radio. Try making the loudest sounds that you can; then the quietest sounds that you can. Tap out simple rhythms. Can your child repeat the rhythm back to you?

Interesting instruments - If you see or hear instruments being played either in real life or on TV, talk about the sounds that the instrument makes. Which instruments does your child like the sound of best? Can they tell you why? Can they imitate the sound with their voice?



Song time - Sing your child's favourite songs, ones they have learnt at school, songs you remember from childhood or songs you have at home. Encourage children to use their bodies to make sounds to go along with their singing - stamping, clapping, patting knees etc.

Sound effects - Read stories and encourage children to make sound effects with their body - stomping, knocking, clapping, scratching etc.

Rhyming books - When children are really familiar with a particular book, try pausing before the rhyming word. Encourage your child to fill in the missing word.

Clap it out- Encourage children to think about the rhythms in words. Say simple nursery rhymes and clap along with one clap for each syllable. Repeat with knee taps, head pats or stamps.

Alliteration - It doesn't have to make much sense.

Thomas the train travels on the tracks. Lion likes lollies. Hippo has a hairy head. Can your child make suggestions? This is a tricky skill and it will take time. Praise them for trying and making suggestions even if they don't alliterate.

Make up stories on the go - Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or on a bus. Try making the story funny or spooky.

Oral Blending games

Robotic talking - Words are made up from sounds and children need to be able to hear these sounds individually. Sometimes when you are playing you can say words as if you were a robot (saying the sounds separately) and see if your child can work out what you are saying. Stick to short simple words that only have a few sounds in them. Make sure you are saying the letter sounds (p-i-g) not the letter names (pee-eye-gee). E.g.

Pass that p-i-g to me.

Sit d-ow-n.

Point to your t-ee-th.

Hop like a f-r-o-g.

As your child becomes familiar with this robot talking, see if they can say words in robot talk themselves.



I spy - Say the rhyme 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with _____' allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess what you have chosen, for example, 'something beginning with t' could be a tree, toy, tent or train.



Point out print everywhere - Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find familiar words on each outing such as 'McDonald's', 'Coke' or 'Tesco'.

Playing with words - Encourage your child to sound out the word as you change it from mat to fat to sat; from sat to sag to sap; and from sap to sip.

Phoneme recognition games

Looking for letters - Ask your child to look for letters whilst you are out and about. Can they find letters from their own name, letters they have learnt in school or letters that specific words begin with?

Ladder letters

Make a pile of letter tiles (use a mixture of known and new letters). Place a counter at the bottom of the ladder and move up a rung for every letter they can read correctly. This game can be changed to covering spots on a ladybird, petals on a flower - go with your child's interests if possible.

Letter sound bingo. You will need: A 3x3 grid for each player & counters or coins
Write some of the letters into the spaces on each card, making each card slightly different. The 'bingo caller' says each letter in turn and the players cover the letter up. The winner is first to fill their board. To make this game easier for new readers, show them the letter for them to match.

Matching pairs - You will need: Small pieces of card or paper with the words your child is currently learning written on each. Each word will need to be written twice so you can search for a matching pair. Turn all the cards face down on the table. And take turns to turn over two. When a matching pair is found that player can keep them. The winner is the person with the most pairs at the end of the game.

Snap - Make a set of cards with letters/words your child is learning written on. Ensure that each letter/word is written on two separate cards. Shuffle up the cards and share them out. Each player takes turns to turn over their card, put it down and read the word. If it matches the previous card played, the first person to notice shouts 'snap!' and wins the pile.

Create a book together - Fold pieces of paper in half and staple them to make a book. Ask your child to write sentences on each page and add his or her own illustrations.

Play phonics fishing: Use homemade letter flashcards, add a paperclip to each, tie a magnet to some string and a stick and ask your child to 'fish' for a particular sound.



Use magnetic letters to spell names and simple words on the fridge or radiator.

Use playdough to make your child's name or simple words like mum.

