

TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS / CARERS:

How to help at Home: Early Phonics Sounds Activities

Ways to support your child at home: environmental sounds

- Go on a listening walk – when walking down the road make a point of listening to different sounds; cars revving, people talking, birds singing, dogs barking. When you get home try and remember all the sounds you heard.
- Make sounds using a range of props eg running a stick along a fence or tapping on the bin lid.
- Invent a secret family knock for entering rooms.

Ways to support your child at home: instrumental sounds

- Make your own musical instruments using cardboard rolls, tins, dried peas, rice, pasta, beans or stones. Shake these loudly, softly, as you are marching, skipping or stomping.
- Play 'guess what's inside the instrument?'
- Sing favourite songs loudly and then softly or add new words or sounds.
- Listen to a range of music with your child from rap to classical.
- Encourage your child to move in response to the variety of musical styles and moods.

Ways to support your child at home: body percussion

- Learn some action rhymes
- Play some a CD. Clap along with familiar rhymes and learn new ones. .
- Listen to the sounds your feet make when walking/running/skipping; slowly, softly, fast, stomping hard, in flip-flops, boots, high heels etc.
- Try different types of claps; clap your hands softly, fast and make a pattern for your child to follow. Do the same clapping your thighs or stomping your feet. Tap your fingers. Click your tongue etc.

Ways to support your child at home: rhythm and rhyme

- Get into the rhythm of our language; bounce your child on your knees to the rhythm of a song or nursery rhyme, march or clap to a chant or poem.
- Help your child move to the rhythm of a song or rhyme.
- Read or say poems, songs, nursery songs and rhyming stories as often as you can, try to use gestures, tap regular beats and pauses to emphasis the rhythm of the piece.
- Add percussion to mark the beats using your hands, feet or instruments.
- Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or bip bop boo, who are you?'

Ways to support your child at home: alliteration (words that begin with the same sound)

- Alliteration is a lot of fun to play around with. Your child's name can be a good place to start e.g. Say 'Milo makes music', 'Carl caught a cold', 'jolly Jessie jumped' etc
- Play around with familiar songs to emphasise alliteration such as 'Old McDonald has some sheep, shoes, shorts with a sh sh here and a sh sh there'.
- Identify the odd one out e.g. cat, cup, boy, car.
- Make up a little nonsense stories together using lots of alliteration
- Collect items from the park, the garden and around the house that start with the same sound

Ways to support your child at home: voice sounds

- Repeat your child's vocalisations
- Make fun noises or nonsense words
- Say words in different ways (fast, slowly, high, low, using a funny voice)
- Vary your tempo and pitch when reading stories
- Make voices for characters when reading
- Read or tell sound stories.