



Phase 1 Phonics

In Nursery we work on Phase 1 Phonics activities which work on speaking and listening skills before learning to read and write in Reception. It is important **not** to work on Reception level phonics before your child is secure in Phase 1.

Here are five Phase 1 activities around alliteration to try with your child this week. Alliteration games focus on the sound at the start of words e.g. the slimy snake slithers in the sun:

These “Alliteration Games” are taken from www.earlyimpactlearning.com

1. Chanting alliteration words to music with actions

This is a great one for getting the children up and active! Firstly, put on some pumping music! Anything with a solid upbeat pulse will work.

Get your child to stand up and then give them a target sound. For example, ‘Today we are going to say ‘s’ words.’ Then start chanting a ‘s’ word on the beat of the music and invent a little action to go with the word. For example, chant ‘sun, sun, sun’ and as you say the word draw a round sun with your hands. Chant each word either four or eight times (it just goes well with the music).

Then do another ‘s’ word, e.g. ‘slither’. Chant and do a slithery arm to go with it! Other good ‘s’ words would be ‘see’ (put your pretend glasses on your eyes), ‘sit’ (point to the floor), and ‘slide’ (make your arm go down a slide). The list of words is endless so be as creative as you can! After a few ‘s’ words move on to another sound, for example ‘t’ words.

2. Tony Train

This is a real classic. Some children love trains more than anything else, so if you can get a train into a phonics activity then you are definitely on to a winner!

For this activity you need a toy train, a few toy zoo animals, and a bag or box to hide them in. Introduce the train first. Say something like 'This is Tony Train. He goes through the jungle. What does he see?'

I like to get them to say a chant with actions:

- Tony Train! Tony Train! (*With train arm actions*)
- What did you see today? (*With hands like spectacles*)

Look secretly in the bag and pick an animal. Give alliteration clues e.g. if it is a snake you could say: 'This animal is sssslippery! It is sssslimy. It is sssscaly! What do you think it is?'

Don't worry if they don't get it! Show them the snake, and repeat some of the 's' words, really emphasising that 's' sound. Then try another animal, for example, 'This animal is llllazy. It is llllovely. It is llllaughing. It's a lion!'



3. Give children alliterative names

Instead of calling your child and other family members just by their name, try calling them something alliterative, like Billy could be 'Brilliant Billy!', Carys could be "Clever Carys!". They will like the compliment and some find it very funny as well, which is not a bad thing! The funnier things are the more children like to repeat them. See if they can make up alliterative names for their toys or their friends.

4. Reading books with alliteration in and emphasise the sounds

This is one of the best ways of bringing an initial awareness of alliteration into children's lives. Many books really hammer home alliteration and make it a joyful thing to experience. Some examples of these books are *Superhero ABC*, *Bedhead*, *Dr Seuss's ABC*, and *Some Smug Slug*.

5. Forming letter shapes and writing letters

You might want to try helping your child hold a pencil correctly in a 'tripod grip'. If they are reluctant to write, please do not encourage them to do so; young children should only write when they are ready. Do not worry if your child is not yet using a tripod grip – we all develop at different paces!



If you do want to try some writing activities try getting them to make shapes like zig zags, swirls and circles using felt tip pens, chalks, crayons or drawing them out in sand, shaving foam, bath bubbles.

Click the picture for more ideas for mark making:



When writing letter sounds for your child, please only form lower case letters (not capitals) apart from at the start of their name.

This guide shows the correct formation of letters – if you want to write out any letter sounds for your child, start on the red dot and follow the direction of the arrow:

Letter Formation Practice Sheet

a b c d e f g h i

j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z



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