



## 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 General Sound Discrimination. These activities help develop children's listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.

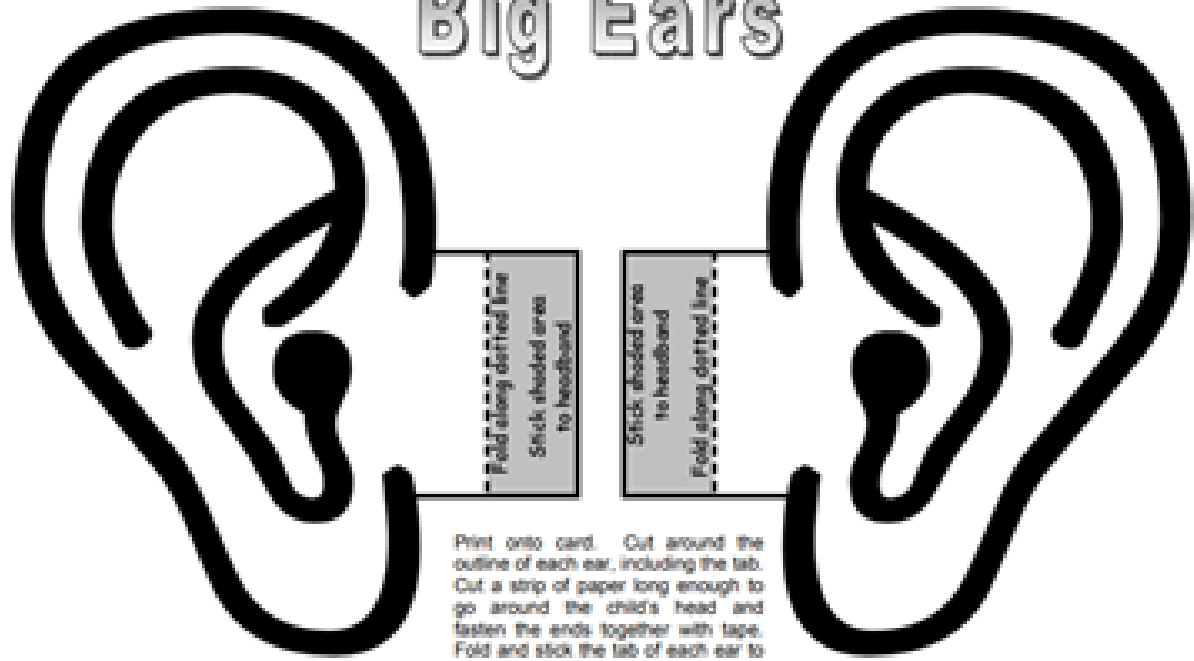
From practising these games your child will learn how to:

- Discriminate between loud and quiet or fast and slow tunes
- Respond to the sounds they hear
- Listen to, understand and follow adult instructions

### 1. Listening walk outdoors

- Go for a listening walk outdoors. Ask your child to show you how good they are at listening and talk about why listening is important.
- Encourage your child to listen attentively to the sounds around them. You could record them on your phone to play back.
- Talk about the different sounds they can hear.
- Use cupped ears or headbands to wear as they go on the listening walk. You could make some out of cardboard or use the template below.
- After the walk make a list together of all the sounds you heard.
- The list can be in words or pictures and can be prompted by replaying sounds recorded on the walk.

# Big Ears



Print onto card. Cut around the outline of each ear, including the tab. Cut a strip of paper long enough to go around the child's head and fasten the ends together with tape. Fold and stick the tab of each ear to the headband. Now you can go for a listening walk.

## 2. Drum Beaters Outdoors

- Encourage your child to explore the outdoor area and discover how different sounds are made by tapping or stroking a wooden spoon on items outdoors e.g. a wooden door, a wire fence, a metal slide etc.
- You can record the sounds and take photographs if you want.
- Ask your child to demonstrate their favourite sound, join in and copy them.
- Act as a conductor and raise a beater high in the air to signal the children play loudly and lower it to play softly.
- Have fun together outdoors!

## 3. Tuning into sounds - Teddy is lost in the Jungle.

- First create a hiding space/ den indoors or outdoors. It could be in a room or put a blanket over a table to make the perfect hiding spot!
- Teddy is lost in the Jungle. Tell your child to cover their eyes while a teddy bear is hidden somewhere in the room.
- Tell your child you are going to guide them to the teddy by singing louder as they get closer, or quietly as they move further away from the teddy.
- Swap over and have lots of fun! Siblings can get involved too.

## 4. Zoo Listening Game- Listen to the sounds at the Zoo! What can you hear?

Click on the picture to open the game. You may need to login – use these details:

User name: march20

Password: home

Choose **PHASE 1** games when you enter the site:



## 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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