



## 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 some Phase 1 activities around General Sound Discrimination. These activities help develop children's listening skills and awareness of sounds in the environment.

*Send a message on ClassDojo if you have any questions or to share a picture of your child taking part in the activities:*

*(Message Mrs Timmins Mon – Weds 8.30-3.30)*

*Message Mrs Rudge Thurs – Fri 8.30-3.30)*

### 1. Listening walk outside

- Go for a listening walk. 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 the sounds on your phone to play back at home.
- 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 outdoors 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. Or put some different items out in the garden for them to explore the sounds made by hitting and tapping with a wooden spoon.
- You could record the sounds or take photographs.
- Ask your child to show you their favourite sound, join in and copy them.
- Act as a conductor and raise a beater high in the air to signal them to 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 quieter as they move further away from the teddy.
- Swap over and have lots of fun! Siblings can get involved too.

#### 4. 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 or follow the link at the top of our web page under “sticky files”:



**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



This video shows how each letter is formed: [Handwriting Video](#)