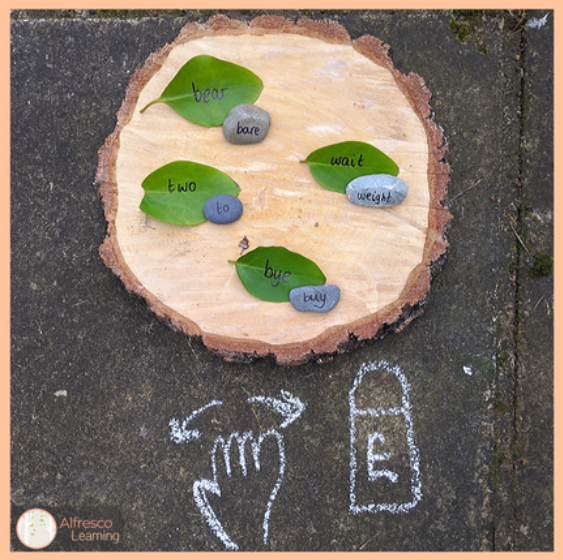
Literacy Teaching Tips

Time Adverbials - great for recounts!

- Ensure each child has a stick and some string
- Go on an exploration in your outdoor area. This could be a general wander around or a journey linked to your current class book
- Ask children to pick up natural items they find on their journey and attach them to their stick, by winding the string round and placing the items underneath the string
- Provide time adverbials for children to orally recount their journey to a partner/group.



This is an outdoor take on the classic matching homophones SPaG activity.

- Start by writing down pairs of homophones on natural loose of parts (pebbles, leaves, shells or log slices are good for this)
- Hide these words in your outdoor area
- All children to hunt for pairs of homophones, making sure they understand that a pair will consist of two different natural loose pay items
- Once a pair had been found, all children to draw representations for the meaning of words on the playground, using chalk

Journey Stick

Using sticks to represent a journey is a great way to develop so many of your children's skills - story telling, sequencing, science, memory and many more! .

Here we have used a stick to represent the mouse in The Gruffalo story. Children then use natural resources they find in your outdoor space to represent the mouse's journey through the woods,. They can retell that journey to their partner to practise their story telling.

Alternatively, use a stick to represent the four seasons. Take children outdoors to fill their stick with evidence of the new season and discuss.

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Leaf Puppets!
This is great for story telling and drama fun!

Read a story with the children and make some leaf puppets to go alongside. Use any leaves (best if dry) and a stick with some string. Get the children to find their own leaves and sticks for added fun!

Then decorate the detail using poster paint or marker pens. Great for endless fun with retell or story creation!

When you are looking at a focus grapheme, go outside and ask the children to write words containing the grapheme using chalk on the walls, floor, any surface that will let them write on it!
Chalk is fantastic because it washes away with the rain, so no damage to school property! But children feel a senses of freedom and 'out of the ordinary' learning, making this a great fun and engaging way to practise phonics!
This can be used either to practise spelling, reading, or even used with other year groups with common exception words!

Take the pressure off handwriting and use sticks to represent sounds!

You could use pre-recorded sound buttons for children to listen to and ask them to create the matching grapheme with sticks. Or use the sticks to spell out entire words! .

Give those children, who find writing hard, a sense of achievement and watch them flourish in their phonics with this one simple activity idea! .

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