

TOOLBOX PHONICS

British Curriculum-Aligned Phonics through Play

Phase 1 Group Planning

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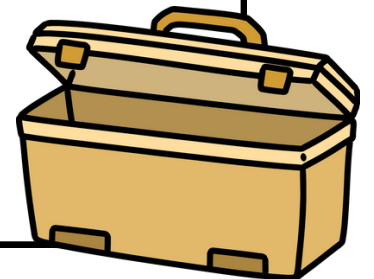
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ASPECT 1

Environmental Sounds: By listening to and identifying 'environmental sounds', children learn to discriminate between different auditory stimuli, which is essential for developing phonemic awareness. Gather some everyday items that make distinctive sounds (e.g., keys, a bottle of water, a bike bell). Allow the children to explore the sounds these items make, as this will help them to identify the sounds in the next part of the game. Next, hide the items either behind your back or under a piece of fabric. Ask the children to close their eyes whilst you place one of the items in a box. Sing the 'Noisy Box' song to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star', inserting a child's name into it. The chosen child then reaches their hand into the box and shakes, bangs, or clicks the item inside. The other children try to identify the sound they hear. Repeat the process with a new item.

Phase 1 Aspects:

1 2 3

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Suggested Toolbox Items:



box



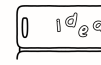
selection of 'noisy items'



selection of instruments



ping pong ball & cups



plastic letters

ALPHABET

Alphabet Awareness: This activity will begin exposing children to letters and teaching them to match a letter with its corresponding sound. At this stage, we will not be teaching the children the names of the letters, typically known in the 'alphabet song'. This is because children need to know the sounds for early reading and writing, and they will learn the letter names only once the sounds are secure first. To play this game, lay out cups on a surface and place a letter (magnetic or plastic, if available) into each cup. If you don't have plastic letters, you can write the letters on the bottom of the cups or use the downloadable paper letters. The children take turns to bounce a ping pong ball into the cups and identify the letter inside the cup with the sound it makes. Model the sound and encourage the children to repeat.

ASPECT 2

Instrumental Sounds: By hearing and distinguishing different musical tones, rhythms, and pitches, children develop their ability to discriminate between sounds- a foundational skill for phonemic awareness. For this activity, you will need a selection of instruments. You can either use the ones in the song or change the words to suit your own instruments of choice. Begin by singing the song together (to the tune of 'Row, Row, Row Your Boat'), exploring the different instruments in each verse. Next, you can alter the lyrics to describe how each instrument is played, and this time encourage the children to finish the first line by identifying the correct instrument. For larger groups you may consider giving each child a different instrument and they play it as it is referred to in the song.

ASPECT 3

Body Percussion: Activities such as this one help children develop their ability to discriminate between different sounds. By clapping, tapping, or stomping in various patterns, children learn to distinguish between different rhythmic elements and sounds, laying the groundwork for phonemic awareness. For this song, you simply chant the words while incorporating an action with each. Repeat each verse, using a quieter voice each time until your final verse is silent, and the child is just doing the actions to the silent beat. For "Hammer", you can beat your fists on the knees, for "Shake", shake your hands, for "Roll", roll your arms, for "Clap", clap your hands, and for "Shh", put your finger to your lips.