

Active Phonics

A child enjoying themselves, is a child who will be engaged and a child who is engaged, is a child learning and developing.

The key to effective phonics instruction through play is to create engaging activities that involve multiple senses and encourage active participation. By incorporating movement, interaction, and creativity, you can help young learners develop strong phonics skills in an enjoyable way.

Here are some enjoyable, engaging activities that can be adapted to support children to develop their phonics understanding and acquisition.

Phonics Scavenger Hunt

Create a phonics scavenger hunt, encouraging children search for items that start with specific letter sounds.

Place various objects around your indoor and/or outdoor area that correspond to different phonemes.

Provide them with flashcards featuring letters and sounds they're learning.

For example, if you're focusing on the letter "S," children can search for objects like a spoon, a stuffed animal, or a sock.

This activity not only reinforces letter-sound associations but also enhances observation skills.

Alphabet Obstacle Course

Set up an outdoor or indoor obstacle course where each station corresponds to a letter or sound.

Children complete a specific task at each station related to the letter or sound, such as:

- at the station for the letter "B," they might need to balance on a beam while saying "buh-buh-buh."
- at the station for the letter "C," they might crawl under a table or tunnel, saying "cuh-cuh-cuh."

Phonics Relay Race

Split children into small groups.

Set up different stations for children to complete phonics-related tasks.

Some examples of tasks:

- Station "S": Children need to slither like a snake while saying "sss."
- Station "C": Kids do jumping jacks while saying "kuh-kuh-kuh."
- Station "F": Children flap their arms pretending to fly like a bird while saying "fff."

One child from each group has to complete the first task and return to their group before the next child can take their turn.
Once all children have completed the first task, they then each complete the second task.
This activity combines physical movement with phonics practice, making it both energetic and educational.

Phonics Obstacle Course

Create an obstacle course with different phonics-related challenges.
At each obstacle, children encounter a phonics task that corresponds to a specific letter or sound. For instance:

- "J" Jump: Jump over a hurdle while saying "juh-juh-juh."
- "R" Run: Run to the next station while saying "ruh-ruh-ruh."
- "H" Hop: Hop on one foot while saying "huh-huh-huh."

The obstacle course combines movement, coordination, and phonics practice, creating a dynamic learning experience.
These active phonics activities not only make learning fun but also reinforce letter-sound associations through physical engagement.

Silent Simon Says

This is a version of Simon Says that's completely silent!
Use the Minmoov or create large cards with decodable action words (such as stand, sit, wave, spin) and body parts (such as hand, face, nose, chest, leg).
One by one, silently display the cards.
If it's an action word, children need to perform the action.
If it's a body part, students should point to the corresponding body part.

This activity is great for focus, body awareness and language development.