

Word Games to support your child's learning at home

Rhyming ping-pong

You say a word e.g. 'book' and your child replies with a rhyming word e.g. 'shook'. If your child makes up a nonsense word e.g. 'flook' that's ok. Just check that they know it is not a real word. In our phonics teaching we call these words 'alien words'.

Robot arms to support reading

Many children find it hard to hear all of the sounds in words like stamp, flag, stick, spoon, stain. These words have 2 consonants next to each other e.g. 's' and 'p' in spoon.

Say a word to your child e.g. spoon and ask your child sound out the word using their 'robot arms' 's' 'p' 'oo' 'n' then blend the sounds together and say the whole word, 'spoon'.

Alternatively you could sound talk the word e.g. 'l' 'a' 'm' 'p'. Ask your child to repeat the sounds and he/she should then blend them together and say the whole word 'lamp'. We encourage the use of 'robot arms' to sound out words in phonic lessons.

Cross the river (segmenting game to support spelling)

Many children find it hard to hear all of the sounds in words like stamp, flag, stick, spoon, stain. These words have 2 consonants next to each other e.g. 's' and 'p' in spoon.

Ask your child to make 1 jump forwards then say the first sound (s), jump again and say the next sound (p), jump again and say the next sound (oo) and jump again and say the final sound (n). Your child should then blend all the sounds and say the word 'spoon'. We play this in our phonics teaching and the children enjoy it very much. We also use 'robot arms' to sound out words then blend then back together again. Ask your child to show you.

Give us a clue

Whilst walking to school describe what you can see. Just use words and see if your child can guess what you are describing. Your child can also have a turn of describing something to you.

E.g. wooden, rough, brown, wide, knot holes, splinters..... a fence

Verbal sentences

Share a bland sentence with your child e.g. Sarah went to the woods. Play a game to improve the sentence. The new sentence may look something like 'Sarah crept through the deep, dark woods'.

Memory games

Play the game 'I went to the shops'. Player 1 says 'I went to the shops and I bought a (banana). Player 2 repeats that sentence but adds an extra item so says 'I went to the shops and I bought (a banana and an apple). How far can your child go? You can add adjectives to make the game more interesting.