

# Letter & Sounds Stars-Activity Ideas



There are so many ways you can use this exciting resource. Here are just a few suggestions to get you started.



## Use the Letter & Sounds Stars to get active with phonics and extend the classroom outside!

Meet the varied needs of all your pupils with fun, engaging and interactive phonics activities. This could be as a whole class, in groups or to support individual learning.

The phonics stars are a perfect resource for helping to build confidence when learning all the different sounds.

## You could use the Letter & Sounds Stars to:

**REVISE** - overlearn previous graphemes.

**HEAR**- introduce a new grapheme.

**READ**- read words containing the grapheme.

**WRITE** – practise writing the sound or record words with that sound.

**APPLY** - read phrases/sentences/write dictated sentences to secure knowledge.

**ASSESS** – as part of a fun monitoring activity to measure progress.

## Phonics Assessment

The Letter & Sounds Stars are a great resource to create fun ways to assess children's phonics learning and progress.

You could simply lay the stars out and get children to run to the sounds they know, say the sound and then put it into a word. If they get it right, they get to put the star into their basket. The stars left are those they need to keep learning.

Invent games with these stars to learn these tricky sounds.

## Phonics

- Reinforce **Sound Pronunciation**- children run around space. On your command, they must jump to a star. Choose a child to hold up their star and say the sound. Correct the pronunciation if necessary. The rest of the class echo the sound back. Repeat the activity.
- **Speed Sounds**- use speed sound chart to set up stars similarly. They can be put on the floor or hung on a wall or fence. Practise calling out the sounds as part of your daily phonics sessions.
- **Alternative Spelling Galaxies**- Find and match stars that have the same sound but a different spelling. Cluster these stars together and collect words or objects to go with these sounds.
- Play **I Spy** using the phonics stars.
- **Phonics Sound Hunt**- give children a list of sounds they have been learning. They must hunt for the sound star and then collect objects or write real and nonsense words that have that sound.

## English

- Lay out the Letter & Sound Stars. Tell a story and get children to find the sounds in certain words.
- At story time, children could sit with a Sound Star. They write down their sound on a whiteboard. As you read the story, they listen out for words with their sound in and record these on their whiteboards to share with everyone at the end.

## Letter & Sounds Stars Ideas continued....

The Letter & Sounds Stars are ideal for indoor and outdoor use. They are pre-drilled so easy for hanging and make a lovely Display on any wall or fence. Here are some more ideas for you to try out.



### Geography

- Use the Letter & Sounds Stars as an **orienteering** resource. Attach them to cones spread out around the area. Children work in teams with orienteering cards and run to the cones to collect the sounds to complete the sequence. Can they find the hidden words/make up words of their own with the sounds? Which team will complete the course the quickest?

### Forest School

- Try using them for a **Scavenger Hunt** to find different items in nature with the sound in (see our activity cards for children).
- Children could use the stars to label different items in the Forest School environment.

### PSHE

- Challenge children to **invent and play their own game** by working together as a team. For example, transform the Letter & Sounds Stars into a **life-size board game** where the children can move around on the board. They could then be challenged to write instructions on how to play their game.
- Use the phonics stars as a **giant card game**. Spread the stars around the area face downwards and then children can take it in turns to turn over a star and say the sound. If correct they keep the star. When all stars collected they try to make as many words as they can. How many real or nonsense words can they make?

### PE

- Use the Letter & Sounds Stars in a PE lesson as a **Warm-up or Cool Down**. Ask children to move around the stars saying the phonemes or stopping beside a star to do an exercise such as jumping jacks or stretches.
- **What's the sound?** Hold up words and children run to any sound they can see in the word.
- Set up Stars for a **phonics relay** or **rhyiming relay**. You could challenge children to try and beat their times, by measuring using timers or stopwatches.
- Use the stars to create different pathways and have a **Noisy Letter Jump**.
- Develop gross motor skills by laying out the phonics stars and asking children to bounce a ball whilst saying the phoneme.
- Play a game of **musical statues**. Play music and ask children to move around the stars in different ways. When the music stops, children must land on a sound and say the sound. They could even record words with that sound in their own little notebook. When the music starts again, they move to the beat of the music onto a different sound. Share the words created at the end of the activity.

You could record the sounds for each Letter & Sounds Star using resources such as Big Point Recordable Buttons, Talking Frogs or Talking Points. This will help to reinforce correct pronunciations.

**We hope you enjoy trying out these activities with our Letter & Sounds Stars. Share ideas with friends and colleagues and if you have a brilliant idea that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.**