

Outdoor Phonics Mats Activity Ideas

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



Use our Outdoor Phonics Mats 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. Activities can be used with the whole class, group work or to support individual learning. The phonics Mats are a perfect resource to use to learn English and build up confidence with sounds.

Use the Outdoor phonics Mats to **REVISE** - overlearn previous graphemes. **HEAR**- introduce a new grapheme. **READ**- read words containing the grapheme. **WRITE**- land on a mat and record words with that sound. **APPLY**- read phrases/sentences/write dictated sentences to secure knowledge. **ASSESS**- monitor progress. Have fun with TTS Outdoor Phonics Mats!

For Assessment:

Our Outdoor Phonics Mats are great for fun ways to do phonics assessments. Simply lay the mats out and get children to jump on the sounds they know and say the sound and put it into a word. If they get it right, they get to put the mat into their basket. The mats left are those they need to keep learning. Invent games with these mats to learn these tricky sounds.

Use as part of your Phonics lesson taking literacy outside.

- Reinforce **Sound Pronunciation**- children run around space, on your command jump onto a mat. Choose a child to hold up their mat and say the sound. Correct the pronunciation if necessary. Rest of class echo the sound back. Repeat.
- **Speed Sounds**- use speed sound chart to set up outdoor mats similarly. Practise calling out the sounds as part of your daily phonics sessions.
- **Alternative Spelling Trains**- Find and match mats that have the same sound but a different spelling. Make a train with these mats by placing them beside one another and collect words or objects to go in this train carriage.
- Play **I Spy** using the phonics mats.
- **Phonics Sound Hunt**- children have a list of sounds they are working on. They hunt for the sound mat and then collect objects or write real and nonsense words that have this sound.

English

Tell a story and get children to find the sounds in certain words. At **story time** children could sit on a Phonics Sound Mat. 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.

Outdoor Phonics Mats Ideas continued....

The Phonics Mats are made of silicone and are ideal for indoor and outdoor use. They are non-slip so children can use them safely for physically active fun phonics games.

Here are some more ideas for you to try out.



Geography

Use the Outdoor Phonics Mats as an **orienteeering** resource. Have Phonics Mats attached to cones spread out around the area. Children work in teams with orienteeering 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

There are numerous ways our Outdoor Phonics Mats can be used in Forest School. Try using them for a **Scavenger Hunt** to find things in nature with the sound in. See our activity cards for children.

PSHE

Invent games and work as a team to share ideas. Transform phonics mats into a **life-size board game** where the children move around on the board. Create a game to play and write instructions on how to play it. Use Phonics Mats as a **giant card game** where mats are spread around the area face downwards. Children take it in turns to turn over a mat and say the sound. If correct they keep the mat. With the mats collected at the end of the game they make words. How many real and nonsense words can they make?

PE

Use in a PE lesson as a **Warmup or Cool Down** moving from spot to spot saying the phonemes or stopping on a mat to do **Jumping Jacks or stretches**. What's the sound? Hold up words and children run to the sound in the word.

Set up mats for a **phonics relay** or **rhyming relay**. Try to beat times. Use **Timers and Stopwatches**.

Use the mats to create different pathways and have a **Noisy Letter Jump**.

Develop gross motor skills **bouncing a ball** on a phonics mat and saying the phoneme.

Music/Dance

Musical statues. Play music and move around the mats in different ways. When the music stops land on a sound, 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 lesson.

We hope you enjoy trying out these activities with our Outdoor Phonics Mats. 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. You could record the sounds for each Phonics Mat, either to reinforce correct pronunciation or for children to record their own voice with sounds and words. TTS sell a wide-range of recordable resources. Check out our Terrific Talking Frogs or Big Point Recordable Buttons, ideal also for outdoor activities.