

Activity Ideas: 44 Sound and Spelling Phonics Tubs

44 sound tubs each containing items to represent a particular sound. Here are some activity ideas to get you started. We hope you enjoy using the tubs.



Hear the sound

Help children listen for initial and final sounds.

- Select a variety of objects from the tubs with different initial or final sounds e.g. hat, dog, fox, book.
- Lay the objects out on a tray and say the names aloud with the children.
- Ask the children different questions, such as 'which object starts with a /d/ sound?' or 'which object ends with a /k/ sound?'.

Listen...what's the sound?

Help children to listen and identify sounds in words.

- Choose one of the tubs to explore.
- Pull out one object at a time saying what it is, emphasising the sound in each word as you go, e.g. this is a dog, this is a duck, this is an adder and this is a sandwich.
- Ask the children 'What is the common sound in all of these objects?'.
- They could then try and write some of the words or repeat the activity with another tub.



Help children to develop their oral segmenting and blending skills.

Build the Word

Help children to use their phonic skills to write words.

Odd One Out

Help children practice and reinforce their phonics learning.

What's Missing?

Help children to use their phonic skills to write words.

- Lay out a selection of objects and ask the children to memorise what they can see.
- Cover them with a cloth and remove one.
- Reveal the objects and ask the children to write down which one is missing.

Memory Game

Help children to explore and use different graphemes.

- Lay out a selection of objects from one of the tubs and ask the children to memorise what they can see.
- After a minute or two, cover them and the children must write down as many as they can remember. Explore the different graphemes that they use.
- Uncover to check their answers.

Silly Sentences

Help children to use their phonics skills for writing.

- Choose one of the sound tubs and lay out all the objects.
- Get children to think of a sentence or short story featuring all the objects and share it aloud.
- Ask them to write their sentence or story down trying to make the correct grapheme.

An example from the long /o/ tub could be: 'On my way home from school I saw an erupting volcano, a big goat, a pink flamingo with a traffic cone on its head and a boy making a snowman!'

