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.





Big Day

Help children to develop their oral segmenting and blending skills.

- In a sandpit, bury a selection of objects from the tubs. Choose objects based on the sounds your class has learnt.
- Children take it in turns to dig for an object.
- When they find one, they must say what it is and sound-talk out the word, e.g. d-o-g.
- Repeat until all your objects have been found.

Build the Word

Help children to use their phonic skills to write words.

- Hide a selection of objects around your classroom or outdoor space. Choose objects based on the sounds you are teaching.
- Set the children off on a treasure hunt to find the hidden objects.
- When they find one, they must write the word or use magnetic letters to build it.

Odd One Out

Help children practice and reinforce their phonics learning.

- Place all of the sound items from one tub onto a tray and include one item from another tub that doesn't fit.
- Ask children to identify the odd one out and explain why.



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!'



