

# Ideas and Inspiration for the TTS Talking Frogs



## TTS Talking Frogs (EL46408)

### Talking Frogs – Supporting Learning in the Early Years and Beyond

In this download, you will find a collection of fun, simple and engaging activity ideas to use in your setting.

The TTS Talking Frogs combine outdoor learning and water play with waterproof technology and recording capabilities.

With their 10 second recording time and robust, submersible design, these little friendly frogs are a brilliant way to support communication, language, storytelling, and learning in different areas of your provision, both indoors and out.



# Singing Rhymes with the Talking Frogs

## Activity Idea

Turn your water tray into a musical pond by recording different rhymes on to the frog, for example, 'Five Little Speckled Frogs'.

You can record most of the rhyme or a line on each frog so that the children can listen and place them in the correct order (for more frog related rhymes – see Frog Rhymes download for ideas).

Place the frogs on a floating log or ledge around the water and encourage children to press them in order as they sing the rhyme.

Children will enjoy joining in with the croaky voices and acting out the rhyme as the frogs jump into the water with a splash!

## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Develops rhythmic language
- Helps children to identify rhyme
- Counting words like 'first', 'next' and 'last'
- Action words such as 'splash', 'sat' and 'ate'



## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- In 'Five Little Speckled Frogs', what happened when the frogs jumped into the water?
- How many frogs are left after one jumps in?
- Can you sing the rhyme in a different voice, for example, whisper it, sing it loud, in a croaky or soft voice?
- Do you know any other songs or rhymes with frogs in them?
- Can you find the words that rhyme?
- Can you add new words into the rhyme to make a new version?

# Storytelling with a Froggy Twist

## Activity Idea

Scatter the frogs around the classroom or outdoor area with different parts of a story recorded on each one.

As children discover each frog, they press to hear the next part of the tale. Once they have listened to them all, can they put them in order?

Alternatively, record story starters onto the frogs so that the children can create their own stories and adventures.

Why not encourage each child to record a sentence on to their frog to create a silly story with their friends? Play back the sentences to see what story they have created.

Not only will this activity get the children's imaginations leaping, but will also generate giggles!

## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Supports children to build storytelling skills
- Encourages story telling language such as 'once upon a time', 'suddenly', 'happily ever after'.
- Develops listening and recall



## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- What is going to happen in the story?
- Who are the characters in your story?
- How does the story end?
- Can you recognise the story (if prerecorded)?
- Can you put the parts of the story in the correct order?



# Character Voices and Role Play Fun

## Activity Idea

Add your Talking Frogs to a small world scene and bring characters to life by adding different voices and sounds. Children can have a go at making different frog related sounds such as ribbit or croak. What else might the frogs say? Where do you think the frog came from? From there you will discover all kinds of explanations as the frogs may turn back into a prince, be a dragon, grant wishes or just have got lost by hopping too far from his pond. Children can have a go at taking on different roles, giving the frogs new voices.

Add other small figures to the set up. Some children may want to add a princess and other story characters so that they can act out well-known fairytales or films such as the 'The Frog Prince' or 'The Princess and the Frog'.

## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Develops expressive language through characters voices and role play.
- Descriptive language with words such as 'grumpy', 'happy', 'magical' or 'brave'.
- Ideal for phase 1 phonics – making different sounds.



## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- What kind of voice would this character have?
- Can you tell how they feel by their voice or what they say?
- How can you change your voice? Can you make it sound different e.g. happy, sad, excited or grumpy?

# Outdoor Treasure Trail

## Activity Idea

Hide the frogs in your outdoor space and record simple clues on them, guiding children from one to the next.

Each frog gives a little hint about where the next frog is hiding, leading them closer to the hidden treasure at the end. Clues could include things like, 'A home to creepy crawlies' – sending them to the minibeast hotel.

You can theme the trail to match a topic, season, sound learnt in Phonics, or favourite story for extra excitement.

Will the frogs lead them to the mystery object, a key or perhaps a box of treasures?

Encourage the children to record clues to create a trail for their friends.



## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Promotes listening and comprehension skills.
- Interpreting clues and following instructions.
- Children will use their spatial awareness and teamwork when finding the clues.
- Positional language – 'under', 'behind', 'next to' and 'on top of'.
- Clue related words – 'search', 'find', 'discover'.

## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- Where might the next frog be hiding?
- What do you think the treasure will be at the end?
- What clues helped you find the treasure?
- Which clues were the easiest/hardest to solve and why?
- Can you record some clues for a friend to follow?
- Where would you hide the frogs? Why?



# Counting, Matching and Sorting with Talking Frogs

## Activity Idea

Record a different number on each frog and make some matching numbered lily pads to place nearby. This activity can be set up on the ground or in your water area.

Children find the frogs, press the button, listen to the number, and then find the correct lily pad for it to sit on.

Extend the activity by encouraging the children to find a matching number of objects to go on the lily pad with the frog. Objects could be pebbles, toy bugs or splash drops.

You could also invite the children to line up the frogs in the correct order.



## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Reinforces number recognition.
- Promotes one-to-one correspondence and the ordering of numbers.
- Encourages the use of number words.
- Develops mathematical vocabulary such as 'count', 'more', 'less'.

## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- What number did you hear?
- Can you find that many objects?
- What comes before and after that number?
- Can you recreate that number in different ways e.g. represent number with twigs, pebbles etc?

# Frog Facts and Life Cycles

## Activity Idea

Use the frogs as talking information points in a nature/science activity. Record key facts about frogs such as their habitat, food and life cycle changes.

Place the frogs and some other resources around a small world scene, e.g., a pond and invite children to listen to the information before creating their own frog habitat. After listening to the facts, children may want to go on a hunt to find their own resources such as water and rocks etc.

The children could also record a fact of their own onto a frog after learning together as a group.



## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Develops early knowledge around science and the natural world.
- Practise using information to support their own ideas and creativity.
- Learn new vocabulary such as 'tadpole', 'frogspawn', 'habitat', 'grow', 'change' and 'life cycle'.

## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- Share books about frogs and discuss.
- What do frogs need to live?
- Can you remember the stages in a frog life cycle?
- Do humans change like frogs? What other animals/insects change?
- What have you learned that is new?



# Welcome Messages and Daily Inspiration

## Activity Idea

Place a few Talking Frogs near the entrance or in a calm corner of your setting with some recorded welcome messages or words of encouragement. These could be recorded by the teacher, different members of staff or by the children.

You could record a message, a mission, a daily greeting or something that is a particular focus for the group.

This is a great way to start the day or help children transition between spaces with a smile. Some children will be excited to hear what new message the frog has for them on their arrival at the setting.



## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Encourages children to use greetings and social phrases such as 'Good morning', 'How are you?', and 'Welcome'.
- Builds a sense of community.
- Supports transitions.
- Can support emotional wellbeing.
- Encourages active listening skills.

## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- How do you feel when you hear a friendly message?
- Can you think of a kind message to record for someone else?
- When might someone like a kind message?
- What message do you think the frog will give today?
- Who might have left a message on the frog today?



# Phonics and Sound Games

## Activity Idea

Record different environmental sounds onto the frogs. Can the children identify the sounds, and correctly place the frog onto a matching image?

Choose and record the frog's names, perhaps relating to one sound: Frank, Freda, Frances and Felicity. Perhaps make silly sentences using alliteration such as 'Jilly jumps and jiggles like a Jack in a Box' or 'Sandy slips and slides like a squid'.

Record single phonemes or CVC words and ask the children to identify the sound or blend it into a word. Pair the frogs with made lily pads containing letters or pictures and ask the children to match then up.

## Learning and Language Opportunities

- Supports the development of sound vocabulary.
- Helps children with sound discrimination.
- Develops blending skills.
- Can support with phoneme-grapheme correspondence.
- Encourages play with rhythm, rhyme and alliteration.



## Key Questions and Discussion Points

- What sounds can you hear?
- (Environmental sounds) Do the sounds remind you of anything?
- Can you create the sound using instruments, body parts or your voice?
- Can you blend the sounds together to make a word?
- What other words start with that sound?
- Can you find objects in the learning environment beginning with that sound?