

Activity pack: Preschool Department

Ideas for home learning



Sound Match

Before a child can learn to read words on paper, they first need to understand that sounds come together and build words. The way that sounds work together to build words is the first step to a child learning to read. In this activity, your child will have to isolate the first sound, identify it and then match the sound to the correct letter. This is certainly an activity that aims to challenge!



You will need **card/paper, a pen, tape** and a **selection of objects**.

- Find something to use as a base, perhaps a table or craft tray.
- Cut some card or paper into rough squares and write letters on the alphabet on them. Once completed, tape them to your base.
- Have a look around your home for objects that begin with the letter.
- Put all the objects in a pile next to your base, you are ready to begin!
- Work together with your child to identify the initial sounds and match them to the correct card. Once they have gained confidence, let them have a go by themselves!

EYFS links:

Reading

- Hears and says the initial sound in words.
- Knows information can be relayed in the form of print.
- Knows that print carries meaning

Dinosaur swamp

The dinosaurs are a favourite amongst many of the children here at nursery. Even if we are playing with something else, some dinosaurs will always seem to escape from the box! Here is a simple activity that is great for imaginary play. To enhance this further, read some dinosaur story books first to inspire some storytelling play. Use your imagination to add some more things to enhance this further, an upturned plant pot to make a volcano or some soil for example.



You will need **toy dinosaurs, plastic container or large tub, water, grass, rocks and barks or twigs**.

- Fill a play table or large tub with 5-10cm of water and add in rocks, logs and handfuls of grass to make a swamp habitat.
- Now add the dinosaurs and play!

EYFS links:

Making relationships

- Can play in a group, extending and elaborating play ideas.
- Keeps play going by responding to what others are saying or doing.

Speaking

- Uses intonation, rhythm and phrasing to make the meaning clear to others
- *Uses talk in pretending that objects stand for something else in play, e.g, 'This box is my castle.'*

Being imaginative

- Builds stories around toys, e.g. farm animals needing rescue from an armchair 'cliff'.

Outdoor activity

Nature soup

We're sure that many of you have fond memories of making potions, perfumes or mud pies when you were younger. This activity allows your children to explore nature by making unique concoctions.

You will need **water, bowls, empty plastic bottles with lids, ladle or cups, basket or container, jug of water.**



- Take a basket or container on a little nature hunt around the garden. Look on the floor for as many natural materials as possible. This could include petals, leaves, bark and herbs.
- Set out the items outside on a low table with the bowls, ladles or cup and bottles.
- Add jugs of water and start soup making!

To enhance this activity further, talk about the scents and textures being used. You could also try naming your concoctions and pouring them into bottles and pretending to sell them in a shop.

EYFS links:

Being imaginative

- Uses available resources to create props to support role-play.
- Explores colour and how colours can be changed.

Exploring and using media and materials

- Beginning to be interested in and describe the texture of things.

The world

- Can talk about some of the things they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects.
- Developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

Speaking

- Questions why things happen and gives explanations. Asks e.g. who, what, when, how.