

Little Acorns At Home 3

Letters and Sounds 'Phonics'

There are many aspects to learning phonics and in 'Letters and Sounds' the skills are divided into 6 overlapping 'phases.' The skills that children learn in the early stage will help them to build their awareness of different sounds, their love of books, the printed word and stories, and their understanding of words, word play, rhymes and rhyming, and early word building, segmenting and blending.

The EYFS Specific Area: Literacy, (Reading)

Interested in books and rhymes and may have favourites: 16-26 months

Favourite rhymes, stories, jingles, repeating phrases from stories, filling in missing words or phrases in known rhymes.: 22-36 months

Enjoying rhythm and rhyme activities, awareness of rhyme and alliteration, describing story settings, events and characters, recognising familiar words, logos and their own name, knows print carries meaning: 30-50 months.

Hears the initial sound in a word, segmenting to spell and blending to read, and linking sounds to letters of the alphabet in addition to naming them and sounding individual letters, appears in the: 40-60+ months.

The early experiences that children have ensures a natural transition through the broad skills required. These experiences should be fun, matching the child's abilities and interests.

In phase 1 the activities are arranged into 7 aspects.

Aspect 1: General sound discrimination—environmental sounds

Aspect 2: General sound discrimination—instrumental sounds

Aspect 3: General sound discrimination—body percussion

Aspect 4: Rhythm and rhyme

Aspect 5: Alliteration

Aspect 6: Voice sounds

Aspect 7: Oral segmenting and blending

Then each aspect is divided up into three strands.

- ◆ Tuning into sounds (auditory discrimination)
- ◆ Listening and remembering sounds (auditory memory and sequencing)
- ◆ Talking about sounds (developing vocabulary and language comprehension)

The activities are intended to help children to ...

Listen attentively, **extend their vocabulary**, **speak confidently to adults and other children**, **discriminate phonemes**, **reproduce the phonemes they hear, in order, all through a word**, use **sound-talk to segment words into phonemes**.

We have resource books to support Phase 1, 2 and 3—ask us.

You can access resources at www.letters-and-sounds.com

Look for Phase 1 activities to begin with, until fully familiar with the games, activities and skills. Don't rush the rhyming, rhythm and alliteration games. And spend time making **loads** of CVC words with the **s a t p i n** letters as part of Aspect 7.

We will outline specific early rhyme work next time!

What about...

Words: nest, home, gather, weave, habitat, shelter, safe, over, under, through, eggs, hatch, chick, hunt, feed, need, fly, care,

Bird experts: Packham, Attenborough, Humble

Colour: Making purple from blue and red, like bluebells

Numbers: Make paper eggs and add these to the nests you make, count them out matching your finger to each one as you go, matching 1-1, numbers to 10, 20, ordering numbered eggs on a line (or birds!) Grouping 3 eggs per nest, 2 eggs per nest (Towards counting in 2s etc).

Nesting time!

The leaves are now appearing in the branches and birds are very busy building their nests. If you watch through a window or from a quiet spot in the garden, you might see them darting backwards and forwards with their beaks full of grass, twigs, feathers and found items. They are building and lining their nests. It is such a busy time for nesting birds. You may spot them getting food for their young too.

In no particular order you could follow this up with

Look to see if there are any nesting birds in your garden, remember to be very still and quiet, use binoculars if you have some. Watch where they come from and where they go to.

Make binoculars using cardboard tubes and add decorations.

Make a 'bird map' showing where the birds might be nesting.

Add collage details, bird shapes, natural items, flying patterns

Online look for different birds, their names, the nest shapes that they make. Look for different nest designs. Search time lapse nest building on YouTube too. Amazing clips!

Make your favourite bird, sticking, drawing, painting feathers

You could hang these from branches if the weather is dry

Gather natural items from the garden or on a walk, sticks, bluebells, different leaves, buds, long grass, dry weeds, ivy

Use these items to make a nest by weaving them together, like a little round basket shape, add string to hold it.

If you have any wool or string at home you could have a go at weaving using a piece of cardboard from a box as your frame. Weave with ribbon, parcel string, thread, torn paper, use words to describe over, under, through, around, in, out

Look for the names of different homes for different animals, where do they live? What kind of habitat do they need?

Like fish, hamster, rabbit, fox, hedgehog, bees, ants, coot, moorhen (nesting on water).

Write out some shelter/home/nest words in paint, felt tips, rolled dough, bubble words, chalk, magnetic/foam letters

Gather cushions and blankets and make your own cosy nest. Add your favourite books and small toys so that you can rest and cosy up in your own nest!

If you have an Alexa ask her to make some diff birds sounds

If baking, try making some rice crispy shredded wheat nests with some melted chocolate. Add 'egg' shapes to count. OR mash potato nests with peas as the eggs! Count them!

Explore the different patterned eggs that birds lay. Cut some from paper and decorate them in different ways to peg on a line and count. Write numbers on the back for ordering.

Use dough to make some nests, make some eggs to go in each using dough, buttons or card. Group and count them.

Mark make- birds flying patterns with different mark making tools, sticks dragged through wet sand, water on the path, paint, finger paints, pens, chalk, cotton buds, a wipe board.

Make scribble nests scribbling round and round with different tools and colours. Watch how your child grips the tool—left or right hand, or both, or swapping. A palmar grip, like a fist, or pinching it like a tripod grip, or experimenting.

Coming soon... snails, seed and growing activities, mini beasts, phase 2 Letters and Sounds information, rhythm and rhyming ideas, and more numbers, shape, space and measures suggestions, cooking ideas. Keep looking out for frogs and tadpoles...