

Getting Ready to Read

Here are some ideas of games and activities that you might like to do over the summer holiday to help your child get ready for learning to read at school.

They are all fun activities and will help your child to listen carefully to how words are made.

The most important thing that you can do is to share nursery rhymes, stories and read books with your child regularly. Make it lots of fun; talk about the pictures, encourage your child to tell the story from the pictures, re-read favourite books and act out stories with toys, puppets and in fancy dress. Watch films of traditional and fairy tales talking about what happens in them. Watch CBeebies bedtime stories on BBC iplayer.

You might like to join the local library and take part in the summer reading challenge.

We will teach your child to read as soon as they start school using our **phonics scheme – Essential Letters and Sounds (Oxford University Press)**. If your child can already read or knows some phonics that is great, but we do not expect them to recognise any letters or phonemes (sounds letters or groups of letters make) before they start school – we will do this. However, you can get them ready for phonics by having a go at some of the activities below.



New Swannington Primary School
Getting Ready To Read 1: Environmental Sounds

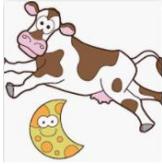


Activities to try at home:

1. Go on a listening walk – when walking down the road make a point of listening to different sounds – cars revving, people talking, birds singing, dogs barking. When you get back home try and remember all the sounds you heard.
2. Record household sounds on your phone/ipad and go on a hunt around the house to find the sound.
3. Tap/sing sounds /simple rhythms and ask your child to tap or sing them back.
4. Make sounds using a range of found props such as running a stick along a fence, tapping on the bin lids.
5. Invent a secret 'knock' for entering rooms.
6. Play sound lotto. You can find some on line at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0Kp_J9kvNM
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1m4h79JZso>



New Swannington Primary School
Getting Ready To Read 2: Hear rhythm and rhyme



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Activities to try at home:

1. Share lots of nursery rhymes. (You can watch and listen to some at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpnUYVezBVw>)
2. Tap beats in songs. March, dance and move to music.
3. Try out some rhythmic chanting such as 'Two, four, six, eight, hurry up or we'll be late' or 'Bip bop boo, who are you?'
4. Make up rhyming strings, e.g. cat, hat, bat, mat, sat / log, frog, bog, smog (it doesn't matter if the children say nonsense rhymes as long as they rhyme, e.g. ring, ping, sing, ning).
5. Play Cake Bake on Phonics Play at <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> (many games on here are free or you can subscribe).

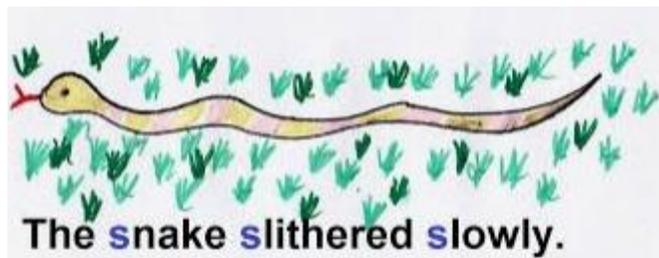


New Swannington Primary School
Getting Ready To Read 3: Use alliteration (words that begin with the same sound.)



Activities to try at home:

1. Alliteration is a lot of fun to play around with; your child's name can be a good place to start e.g. Say Gurpreet gets the giggles, Milo makes music, Naheema's nose, Carl caught a cat, Jolly Jessie jumped, Tina is talking etc.
2. Try some alliteration songs i.e. 'Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.'
3. Play odd one out games e.g. cat, cup, boy, car.
4. When shopping think about items you are buying and say 'A tall tin of tomatoes!' 'A lovely little lemon!' Encourage your child to do the same.
5. Play Super Smoothies on Phonics Play at phonicsplay.co.uk



New Swannington Primary School
Getting Ready To Read 4: Blending & Segmenting



Blend and segment – hear the sounds in words and blend them together to say words/segment the sounds in words by pulling the words apart

(You are **not** expected to match what letters look like to the sounds they make at this stage. The emphasis is on helping children to hear the separate sounds in words and to create spoken sounds. Oral blending and segmenting is a skill that will be very important when it comes time to read and write).

Activities to try at home:

1. Play Eye-Spy focusing on the initial (first sound) in words.
2. Play a robot game - break down simple words when you are giving instructions or asking questions such as 'Can you find your h-a-t, hat?'
3. Make a robot mask/head and ask your child to be a robot and ask you for things in robot speak – remember use the sound not the letter name.
4. Play Find something beginning with...

