

## Simple games for encouraging reading

Simple word games and activities let your child experiment with sounds, letters, and words. Try:

### **Treasure hunts**

Choose a selection of words from a current storybook, or words that you want to reinforce. Write them on cards and hide them around the house. Give the challenge of hunting for the words and reading them before the timer runs out.

### **Bingo**

Read out the words to match to a bingo board

### **Pairs games/snap/dominos**

Write each focus word onto two cards, then use to play snap or pairs games

### **I Spy**

Use language-based clues, such as "I spy something that starts with T" or "I spy something that rhymes with 'duck'." If that isn't enough information for your child, add more details, such as "I spy something that starts with 'T' and has four big wheels" (a truck).

### **Making words**

Use magnetic letters on the fridge or foam letters in the bath  
Play dice games by changing the dice faces to letters and asking your child to roll dice to see if he or she can make a word from the letters. Say the sounds when making the word.  
Cut out paper letters to practice spelling words, or writing simple sentences

### **Making sentences**

Cut words out of newspapers or magazines and put together to make sentences.

### **Tongue twisters and language games**

Make up and play with tongue twisters like *Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers* or *Betty Botter bought a bit of butter*.

Find poems and rhymes that play with language, like Michael Rosen's *There's mustard in the custard*.

Make up guessing games during meal times. For example, 'I'm thinking of an animal. It can gallop. You can ride it. What is it?' Take it in turns.

### **Storytime**

Use puppets, dolls and construction toy characters to build a story setting and retell favourite rhymes and tales.

Even if your child is reluctant to read themselves, please do keep reading to them as much as possible, and talking about the stories. The understanding of texts and language that this will provide will be invaluable as they move through the school, and should really support the development of writing as well.