



44 Sound and Spelling Phonics Tubs

There are 44 sounds that make up every spoken word in the English language. With the help of the objects included in these tubs, children will be able to see how a variety of different spelling patterns are used to represent each of these different sounds.

1 Hear the sound

Help children listen for initial and final sounds.

- Select a variety of objects from the tubs with different initial or final sounds e.g. hat, dog, fox, book.
- Lay the objects out on a tray and say the names aloud with the children.
- Ask the children different questions, such as 'which object starts with a /d/ sound?' or 'which object ends with a /k/ sound?'.



2 Listen ... what's the sound?

Help children to listen and identify sounds in words.

- Choose one of the tubs to explore.
- Pull out one object at a time saying what it is, emphasising the sound in each word as you go, e.g. this is a dog, this is a duck, this is an adder and this is a sandwich.
- Ask the children 'What is the common sound in all of these objects?'.
- They could then try and write some of the words, or repeat the activity with another tub.

3 Big Dig

Help children to develop their oral segmenting and blending skills.

- In a sandpit, bury a selection of objects from the tubs. Choose objects based on the sounds your class has learnt.
- Children take it in turns to dig for an object.
- When they find one, they must say what it is and sound-talk out the word, e.g. d-o-g.
- Repeat until all your objects have been found.

4 Build the Word

Help children to use their phonic skills to write words.

- Hide a selection of objects around your classroom or outdoor space. Choose objects based on the sounds you are teaching.
- Set the children off on a treasure hunt to find the hidden objects.
- When they find one, they must write the word or use magnetic letters to build it.



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5 Odd One Out

Help children to practise and reinforce their phonics learning.

- Place all of the sound items from one tub onto a tray and include one item from another tub that doesn't fit.
- Ask children to identify the odd one out and explain why.

6 What's Missing?

Help children to use their phonic skills to write words.

- Lay out a selection of objects and ask the children to memorise what they can see.
- Cover them with a cloth and remove one.
- Reveal the objects and ask the children to write down which one is missing.

7 Memory Game

Help children to explore and use different graphemes.

- Lay out a selection of objects from one of the tubs and ask the children to memorise what they can see.
- After a minute or two, cover them and the children must write down as many as they can remember. Explore the different graphemes that they use.
- Uncover to check their answers.

8 Silly Sentences

Help children to use their phonics skills for writing.

- Choose one of the sound tubs and lay out all the objects.
- Get children to think of a sentence or short story featuring all of the objects and share it aloud.
- Ask them to write their sentence or story down trying to make the correct grapheme (spelling) choice each time.

An example from the long /o/ tub could be: 'On my way home from school I saw an erupting volcano, a big goat, a pink flamingo with a traffic cone on its head and a boy making a snowman!'

