

OUTDOOR PHONICS MATS ACTIVITY CARDS

Our Phonics Mats lend themselves beautifully to outdoor learning.

Why not have the Phonics Mats freely available for activities within continuous provision to help consolidate phonics learning and motivate children to play with sounds in different ways.

Here are a few ideas that can be printed off, laminated and used with children.

Other ideas could include:

- Playdough Phonics
- Water and Sound Tray Treasure Hunts
- Spin and Rhyme Sound Game
- Letter Sound Race



If you have a brilliant idea that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.

Stepping Stones



Stepping stones hop is a great way to learn sounds.

- Lay out the phonics mats to create different pathways. These will be the stepping stones that help you to cross your pretend river.
- Your aim is to jump from one mat to another calling out the sounds as you land on them. Be careful not to wobble or say the wrong sound, or you might have to go back to the start and begin again!

If you would like an extra challenge:

- As you land on each mat, call out words with that sound in for a partner to write down on a whiteboard. How many words can you collect? Time yourself and try to beat your time on another turn.



Sound Hunt

Before this activity you will need:

- A list of sounds you are working on from your teacher.
- To have read *We're Going On A Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen.

- Collect your list of sounds from your teacher.
- Look at your list and begin your sound hunt in 'Bear Hunt' style.

We're going on a sound hunt,
We're going to make lots of
words.

What a perfect day!
We're great at spelling.

Uh oh! What's that?

An ai. We have to find the ai.

Where is it?

(Go on your hunt to find the right phonics mat)

It's here! Now let's spell with it.

- When you have found the correct phonics mat, write as many real and nonsense words as you can with that sound.
- You could place your phonics mat in a tub or basket and collect items with that sound in too.



I Can Spell A Rainbow

- Set up the Phonics Mats in a rainbow shape with a bucket for the gold at the end of the rainbow.
- Select letters and sounds from the rainbow and make words with the sound.
- Write words in rainbow colours on paper to put in your treasure pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.



*Red and yellow and pink and
green,
Purple and orange and blue.
I can spell a rainbow, Spell a
rainbow, Spell a rainbow with you.
Looking with your eyes,
Listen with your ears,
And spell everything you see.
I can spell a rainbow, Spell a
rainbow, Spell a rainbow with me.*



You will need:

- Outdoor Phonics Mats
- A special bucket
- Strips of paper/card
- Coloured pencils/pens
- A clip board.

Sound Skittles



- Set up your skittles and attach a variety of different phonics sound mats to them.
- Throw a suitable, soft ball to try and knock over as many skittles as you can.
- You can score a point for every skittle you can knock down. Double your points, if you can name that sound.
- Add extra fun, with bonus points for each real or nonsense word that you can make using that sound.

You will need:

- Skittles or empty bottles to make skittles.
- Outdoor Phonics Mats
- Balls suitable for knocking down the skittles.



Island Hopping



- Spread the phonics mats around the space, making sure you can see them all clearly.
- Select a mat for your first island by saying the phoneme and then running quickly to that mat and hopping on that island. Say aloud the sound of that island.
- Take it in turns to hop to a new island. Why not set a timer and see how many islands you can visit.
- Or play with larger islands by joining mats together to make words. Every time you land onto an island say the sounds aloud and blend to read the word. Collect the words you have read from the islands you have visited.



Phonics Treasure Hunt

- Ask a friend or adult to hide the phonics mats around your setting (indoors or outdoors). When they have finished, you can set off on a very special Phonics Treasure Hunt to find them!
- When you find a sound, write down the grapheme and use a sound button to record how you pronounce it. You could set a timer and see how many sounds you can find in, for example 5 minutes. When the time is up, try to write as many real and nonsense words as you can with the sounds you collected.
- The more words you make, the more treasure you have found!



You will need:

- Mini note books, clip boards and paper or white boards.
- Recordable sound buttons.



Crazy Golf Phonics



- Use the Phonics Mats to set up a crazy golf game.
- Lay out the mats, with the sounds facing up.
- Play the course and say the sounds as your ball travels over each of the target mats.
- Why not try to hit the ball to pass over specific mats that will spell out a word?

You could create your very own Queen of Hearts Croquet Game!

Phonics Hopscotch



Hopscotch is a popular playground game. It is a game that you can play with other people or on your own.

- Set up the phonics mats in the layout of a hopscotch.
- You can then make up your own games and rules to play.
- For example, if you land on a mat with one leg, you say the sound. If you land with both feet down, you blend the sounds to make words.

Jumping Jacks



- Spread out the phonics mats in your setting – somewhere outdoors would be great for this activity!
- Choose one person to start by being the ‘caller’.
- Everyone else should run around the mats and create different pathways.
- When the caller shouts out “JUMPING JACKS”. Everyone else must hop onto a mat and at the same time, start doing jumping jacks whilst saying their sound.
- The caller then chooses their favourite Jumping Jack sound and whoever is standing on that sound becomes the new caller and the game begins again.

There are lots of variations you could create for this game. Try creating your own ‘Jumping Jacks’ challenge for others to try.



Scavenger Hunt

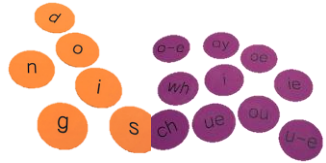
- Spread the phonics mats out around your setting.
- Choose a phonics mat and go on a scavenger hunt to find items either inside or outside with that sound in.
- You could write, draw or collect items containing that sound.
- Which phonics mat has the most items? Were there any that were difficult to find items for?

You will need:

- A clip board
- Paper
- A pencil



Dancing Phonics



Phonics Dance Mat

- Set up the phonics mats on the floor like a dance mat.
- Make up your own dance moves to music on your dance mat.
- Write down the sounds as a sequence for your steps.
- Can a friend follow your sequence and copy your dance?

Musical Statues

- You could also play Musical Statues with the Phonics Mats.
- Lay out the mats.
- When the music stops, you hop onto a Phonics Mat, and stand as still as a statue.
- When the game master walks passed your statue, you say the sound of your mat.



Phonics Twister

- Set up the Phonics Mats like a game of Twister.
- Choose one person who will give the instructions.
- The other players should take turns to follow instructions, such as put your right foot on **ai**, your left hand on **ch**, etc.
- How many sounds can you cover up without getting into a twist?

