

Outdoor Phonics Mats Activity Ideas

There are so many ways you can use this exciting resource.

Here are just a few suggestions to get you started.



Use the Outdoor Phonics Mats to get active with phonics and extend the classroom outside!

Meet the varied needs of all your pupils with fun, engaging and interactive phonics activities. This could be as a whole class, in groups or to support individual learning.

The phonics mats are a perfect resource for helping to build confidence when learning all the different sounds.

You could use the outdoor phonics mats to:

REVISE - overlearn previous graphemes.

HEAR- introduce a new grapheme.

READ- read words containing the grapheme.

WRITE - practise writing the sound or record words with that sound.

APPLY - read phrases/sentences/write dictated sentences to secure knowledge.

ASSESS - as part of a fun monitoring activity to measure progress.

Phonics Assessment

The Outdoor Phonics Mats are a great resource to create fun ways to assess children's phonics learning and progress.

You could simply lay the mats out and get children to jump on the sounds they know, say the sound and then put it into a word. If they get it right, they get to put the mat into their basket. The mats left are those they need to keep learning.

Invent games with these mats to learn these tricky sounds.

Phonics

- Reinforce **Sound Pronunciation**- children run around space. On your command, they must jump onto a mat. Choose a child to hold up their mat and say the sound. Correct the pronunciation if necessary. The rest of the class echo the sound back. Repeat the activity.
- **Speed Sounds**- use speed sound chart to set up outdoor mats similarly. Practise calling out the sounds as part of your daily phonics sessions.
- **Alternative Spelling Trains**- Find and match mats that have the same sound (phoneme) but a different spelling (grapheme). Make a train with these mats by placing them beside one another and collect words or objects to go in this train carriage.
- Play **LSpy** using the phonics mats.
- **Phonics Sound Hunt**- give children a list of sounds they have been learning. They must hunt for the sound mat and then collect objects or write real and nonsense words that have this sound.

English

- Lay out the sound mats. Tell a story and get children to find the sounds in certain words.
- At story time, children could sit on a Phonics Sound Mat. They write down their sound on a whiteboard. As you read the story, they listen out for words with their sound in and record these on their whiteboards to share with everyone at the end.

Outdoor Phonics Mats Ideas continued....

The Phonics Mats are made of silicone and are ideal for indoor and outdoor use. They are non-slip so children can use them safely for physically active fun phonics games.

Here are some more ideas for you to try out.



Geography

- Use the Outdoor Phonics Mats as an **orienteeing** resource. Have Phonics Mats attached to cones spread out around the area. Children work in teams with orienteeing cards and run to the cones to collect the sounds to complete the sequence. Can they find the hidden words/make up words of their own with the sounds? Which team will complete the course the quickest?

Forest School

- Try using them for a **Scavenger Hunt** to find different items in nature with the sound in (see our mini-activity cards for children).
- Children could use the mats to label different items in the Forest School environment.

PSHE

- Challenge children to **invent and play their own game** by working together as a team. For example, transform the phonics mats into a **life-size board game** where the children can move around on the board. They could then be challenged to write instructions on how to play their game.
- Use the phonics mats as a **giant card game**. Spread the mats around the area face downwards and then children can take it in turns to turn over a mat and say the sound. If correct they keep the mat and then at the end, they must try to make as many words as they can. How many real or nonsense words can they make?

PE

- Use the phonics mats in a PE lesson as a **Warm-up or Cool Down**. Ask children to move from spot to spot saying the phonemes or stopping on a mat to do an exercise such as jumping jacks or stretches.
- **What's the sound?** Hold up words and children run to any sound they can see in the word.
- Set up mats for a **phonics relay** or **rhyming relay**. You could challenge children to try and beat their times, by measuring using timers or stopwatches.
- Use the mats to create different pathways and have a **Noisy Letter Jump**.
- Develop gross motor skills by laying out the phonics mats and asking children to bounce a ball whilst saying the phoneme.
- Play a game of **musical statues**. Play music and ask children to move around the mats in different ways. When the music stops, children must land on a sound and say the sound. They could even record words with that sound in their own little notebook. When the music starts again, they move to the beat of the music onto a different sound. Share the words created at the end of the activity.

You could record the sounds for each Phonics Mat using resources such as Big Point Recordable Buttons, Talking Frogs or Talking Points. This will help to reinforce correct pronunciations and could support children to record their own voice and listen back.

We hope you enjoy trying out these activities with our Outdoor Phonics Mats. Share ideas with friends and colleagues and if you have a brilliant idea that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.