



# Mini Phonics Mats

Let this collection of engaging activities inspire you to use the mini phonics mats in lots of different ways, both indoors and outdoors, to help your children practise their phonics.

All these activities can be adapted to play either individually with a child, in pairs or in small groups.

## 1 Sound bounce

- Hang the phonic mats on a wall or fence outside.
- Children throw or bounce a ball towards them and must say which sound they hit.
- You could add an extra challenge of saying a word that begins with, ends with or contains that sound.

## 2 Bean bag throw

- Lay out the phonic mats on the floor (inside or outside).
- Children throw three bean bags to land on three different mats.
- They have to make a word with the sounds they have landed on. Is it a real word or not?
- You could increase the difficulty by increasing the number of bean bags they throw.



## 3 Phonic Fishing

- Put a selection of phonic mats in your water tray. Why not add some sea creatures too?
- Children then go fishing for a mat using a net.
- When they have caught one, the child must say the sound out loud.
- You could increase the challenge by asking children to fish for multiple mats and then build a word with the ones they catch. Is it a real word or not?



## 4 Sound Hop

- Lay the phonic mats on the floor (inside or outside).
- One child must say a word out loud and their partner must hop onto the sounds in the correct order to spell out the word.
- Alternatively, one child can hop onto a sequence of mats and their partner must sound out the word they have spelt.



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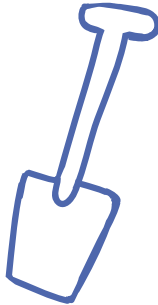


## 5 Word Builder

- Collect a set of objects (or images) that contain a range of sounds children are learning, e.g. dog, toy, ring.
- Select the mats that show the graphemes that make up these words and float them in water, hide them in sand or bury them in shredded paper.
- Children must build all of the words by taking it in turns to fish out a mat and placing it underneath the correct object.

## 6 Dig for the letter

- In a sandpit, bury a selection of the phonics mats and objects that begin with those sounds.
- Children take it in turns to dig for a mat. When they have found one, they must then dig to find an object that starts with that sound.
- Repeat until all of the mats and objects have been paired up and found.
- You can keep it simple with initial sounds or make it more challenging with sounds that are contained within words, e.g. if they find the o-e mat, they may need to find a bone.



## 7 Hanging Phonics

- Set up a large washing line and attach loops of string through the holes at the top of the mats.
- Children can create words on the washing line by pegging up the mats in different orders.
- You could give children word cards or images for them to build or why not use clothes that have different pictures on, e.g. socks with cats on and they must select the correct mats to spell out 'cat'.

ea

oi

## 8 Tickle the sound

- Hang the phonics mats on an outside wall, fence or tree.
- Give one child a feather duster, water pistol or something similar and they must tickle or squirt the sound that their partner says.
- Alternatively, one partner can tickle or squirt a sound and the other must say it aloud.
- You can increase the challenge by asking children to squirt a sequence of sounds and their partner must build a word.

