Ideas of games you can play at home to support your child’s learning in phonics.

Recognition of grapheme/ phonemes

Letter corners- Write the graphemes in the corners of the room. Play some music. When the music stops, your child has to go to a corner. Call out a phoneme. If your child is at that phoneme, they are out.

Noughts and Crosses- play noughts and crosses, but choose a phoneme each, instead of a O or a X

Quick write- say a phoneme- how quickly can your child write it?

Water/chalk write- use chalk or water with a paint brush. Choose a phoneme and ask your child to write it. Play hopscotch with the phonemes.

Simon says- Play Simon says, but instead of saying all of it segment some of the words. Can your child blend them together to do the action?

e.g. Simon says s-t-a-n-d- on one l-e-g.

Head bands- stick a word on your head of an action. Can your child read the word and perform the action for you to be able to guess the word?

Phone talk- pretend your phone keeps breaking up. E.g. Bring your h-a-t today, it is a very ch-i-ll-y d-ay. Continue role playing a conversation, but sound talk some of the words.

Humpty Dumpty Words- Humpty has dropped some of his words off the wall, can you put them back together again to make words? (Write words on paper and cut them out)

Guess the phoneme- draw the grapheme on your child’s back with your finger. Can they guess the phoneme? Can they think of a word that contains that phoneme?

Hunt the grapheme- use any type of text- can children hunt for a given grapheme in their text and make a list of any they find?

Rhyming word generation- pass the object- pass an object around. When you are holding the object, say a rhyming word e.g. stair, bear, chair, fair, lair, dare, care. When you have exhausted all you can think of, sort the words into sections. How many different ways of make the air phoneme have they found?

Buried treasure- hide words in cereal/ sand etc. Can they work out if it is a real or a nonsense word?

There are various versions of this game online e.g. see www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Word hunt- Hide words outdoors. Children hunt the words, read the words and see if they can work together to build sentences.

Animal Words- Put graphemes on a group of toys (could be as hats/ medallions or even just post-its). Ask the children to help the toys to make different words by sitting next to each other. How many different words could they make?