**Ideas for Enjoying and Developing Pre-Reading Skills at Home**

**1. Add sounds to stories you enjoy together**

When reading with your child, add instruments/sounds to bring it to life! Bang on something as a drum for footsteps or shake keys when a wand is waved.

1. **Where’s that sound?**

Set a sound going on a phone or ipad or you could use an egg timer or musical toy. Hide it somewhere in a room (or hide yourself with an instrument). Ask them to find the item by listening to the sound.

1. **Play around with songs**

Enjoy favourite songs and rhymes together. Try changing the words (The Wheels on the Train?) or singing them in a different way – Slow? Fast? Quiet? Loud?

1. **Rhyming**

Draw attention to rhyming words and repeated phrases in stories, songs and rhymes. Encourage lots of joining in. Encourage thinking of different words with the same rhyme (dog, log, fog, bog etc)

1. **Eye Spy**

Play Eye-Spy…. Something that begins with …. *or* Something that rhymes with ….

1. **Clapping or Tapping**

Tap along on your child’s arm as music is playing or you sing a song. Clap or tap each syllable as you say words (Pe-ppa – Pig = 3 claps). Copy-clap rhythms.

1. **Listening Walk**

Go on a ‘listening walk’. Stop a few times on your walk and just listen – identify and talk about what you can hear.

1. **Simon Says**

In this version, for each action that you want your child to copy, repeat the first sound several times:

*Simon says sss stand up.*

*Simon says jjj jump.*

*Simon says hhh hop.*

1. **Talk Like a Robot**

Have a bag of familiar toys/items from around your home (cat, dog, mug, sock). Talk like a robot (e.g. ‘c-a-t’). Ask your child what they think you are saying – can they spot it in the bag. When they are confident, swap roles!

1. **Make sounds**

Have fun making lots of sounds and words that encourage your child to move their mouth and tongue. For example:

* *Make your voice go down a slide: wheeee!*
* *Make your voice bounce like a ball: boing, boing*
* *Hiss like a snake: ssssss*
* *Sound really disappointed: oh*
* *Keep everyone quiet: shshshshsh*
* *Be a steam train: chchchchchch*