

Games That Make Phonics Fun

1. Phonics Scavenger Hunt

Children love treasure hunts, so why not incorporate phonics practice into an exciting scavenger hunt? To play, start by choosing a specific letter. Have your child make the letter sound. Give your child a basket and challenge them to find objects around the house that begin with the chosen sound.



2. Word Building with Letter Tiles

Manipulating physical letters can help children understand how sounds blend to form words. Begin by giving your child a handful of letter tiles and asking them to form simple words. Start with consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) words like “cat,” “dog,” or “sun.” Once they master basic words, introduce blends and digraphs, such as “ship” or “frog.”



3. Hopscotch Phonics

Movement-based games benefit active learners, and hopscotch phonics is a great way to combine physical activity with reading skills. To set up, use sidewalk chalk to draw a hopscotch board outside or create one indoors with masking tape. Inside each square, write a letter or letter blend.



4. Roll and Read Dice Game

Adding an element of chance makes learning more exciting, and a phonics dice game is perfect for building early reading skills. To play, label a standard six-sided die with different digraphs and blends (e.g., “ch,” “th,” “sh,” “sp,” “tr,” and “bl”). Give your child a list of words that contain those sounds.



5. Digital Phonics Games and Apps

Technology can be a powerful tool in your child's phonics education, and there are many interactive games and apps that help young learners strengthen their reading skills. Programs like Starfall, ABCmouse, and Teach Your Monster to Read reinforce phonics rules with bright visuals, fun characters, and interactive challenges.



6. Phonics Bingo

Bingo is a classic game that you can easily adapt for teaching phonics. Instead of traditional numbers, create Bingo cards filled with letters or word families. Call out a word, and if the child has a square containing the corresponding letter or letter pattern, they can mark it off.



7. Rhyming Relay Race

Rhyming skills are essential to phonics learning, and a relay race makes practicing them more dynamic. Place words on index cards at one end of the yard or living room. Have your child stand at the starting line, then say a word. They must run to find a rhyming word and bring it back before the next round begins.

