Prompt cards: Foundations for phonics

Tuning into sounds (weekly provision)

Play with sounds	Notes
Say: Let's play with sounds. Using the children's names, or objects that are particularly engrossing for them, make up alliterative phrases that the children will engage and enjoy experimenting with. Examples: David's dangerous dinosaur/Malak's marvellous, magic mittens.	 This game can be: played incidentally (as the children are playing and the practitioner is supporting or extending their play) pre-planned during free play or as a group activity. Ensure you correctly enunciate the sound and carefully make the correct formation with your mouth. This is also a great opportunity to use new vocabulary with the children.
	 Purpose To explore how different sounds are articulated To understand alliteration so that children can make connections with the same sounds To enjoy experimenting with sounds



Bertha the bus is going to the zoo

- Chant the rhyme: Bertha the bus is going to the zoo. Who does she see as she passes through?
- Pull models or pictures of the animals she sees out of a bag, and say the name of the animal.
- At the end of the chant, briefly discuss with the children the initial sound of the animals and encourage them to enunciate it.
- Repeat using animals with different initial sounds.
- Extend by using alliterative phrases for some of the animals (see **Play with sounds** above).

Notes

- Prepare a toy bus and a bag with animal pictures or models that all begin with the same initial sound.
- Repeat the chant before revealing each animal, and encourage the children to join in with the repeated chant.
- Emphasise the initial sound as you say the name of the animal.
- Ensure you correctly enunciate the sound and carefully make the correct formation with your mouth.
- Encourage the children to play this game independently, during free play, by providing them with the relevant resources.

Purpose

- To explore how different sounds are articulated
- To enjoy experimenting with sounds

Name play

- Say: Let's play Name play.
- Pull the children's name cards out of a bag. Show each card and say the name.
- Make up fun sentences with the children's names.

Examples: Tyrone has ten tickly toes. Beti has a big banana.

Notes

- Prepare a bag of cards with the children's names written on them.
- Emphasise the focus sound within the fun sentence.
- Ensure you correctly enunciate the sound and carefully make the correct formation with your mouth.

Purpose

- To explore how different sounds are articulated
- To understand alliteration so that the children can make connections with the same sounds
- To enjoy experimenting with sounds



Voice sounds	Notes
• Say: Let's play Voice sounds.	Emphasise the mouth articulation.
 Model making different voice sounds. 	
 Make your voice go down a slide – wheeeee 	Purpose
 Make your voice bounce like a ball – boing, boing 	To explore how different sounds are articulated
 Sound really disappointed – oh 	To enable children to explore different mouth movements
 Hiss like a snake – ssssss 	
 Keep everyone quiet – shhhhh 	
∘ Moo like a cow – <i>mmmmooooo</i>	
 Make a noise like a steam train – ch-ch-ch 	
 Buzz like a bumble bee – zzzzz 	
∘ Be a clock — <i>tick tock</i>	

What's in the box?	Notes
 Explain that all the objects begin/end with the same sound. Say: Let's play What's in the box? Take out each object one by one and say what it is, emphasising the initial/end sound. Use the copy me method so the children say the sound and object. Check the children know what the object is. 	You will need to source the objects/photos listed in 'Foundations for Phonics: Objects for What's in the box?' for this game. • Graphemes at the end of words are 'x', 'ck', 'll', 'ff', 'ss' and 'zz'.



Oral blending games

Blend from the box	Notes
Tell the children that you have some objects and you want	• You will need to source the objects/photos listed in 'Foundations for
them to help you work out what they are. • For each object:	Phonics: Objects for What's in the box?' • Make sure you say the sounds clearly, with pure sounds.
• Use the copy me method.	Maintain good eye contact with the children.
Sound-talk the word twice.	
• Ask the children to sound-talk the word and then blend to	
say the word.	
 Model sound-talking and blending the word. 	
• Show the children the object and check they know what it is!	

Can you touch your ?	Notes
 Tell the children that you are going to play a game where they touch different parts of their body. Model what will happen. For example, say: Can you touch your h-e-d? [Touch your head.] For each word: Use the copy me method. Say: Can you touch your [name body part]? Then soundtalk the word twice. Give feedback. Praise and ask the children to join in with you as you repeat the sound-talk and touch the correct part of your body. 	 Quickly clear up any misconceptions. (If they touch the wrong part of the body, for example.) Aim for a lively pace, with lots of expression and warmth to keep the children's interest.



What's that noise?	Notes
Tell the children that you are going to play a game about the sounds made by different things, such as animals or vehicles.	 As the children sound-talk the word, nod your head to prompt them with the number of sounds. Over time, you can give the children less support – by using the
Model what will happen. For example, say: What sound does a d-o-g make? A d-o-g dog says woof/bark. Let's all bark like a d-o-g!	copy me method but sound-talking the word once only.
 For each word: Say: What sound/noise does a/an [sound-talk the word] make? Pause and listen to the children. 	
 Repeat. Sound-talk the word and make the noise. Ask the children to join in! 	

Can you do the action?	Notes
 Tell the children that you are going to play an action game. Model what will happen. For example, say: Can you c-l-a-p? [Clap your hands.] For each word: Say: Can you [sound-talk the word]? Give feedback. Repeat. Sound-talk the word. Blend it. Then all do the action together. 	 As the children sound-talk the word, nod your head to prompt them with the number of sounds. Over time, you can give the children less support — by using the copy me method but sound-talking the word once only.

