

Activities to develop phonological awareness

- **Matching instruments:** hide a set of instruments behind a screen and keep a set in front of the child. Play an instrument and ask the child to identify the correct/ same instrument.
- **Identifying whether words are the 'same' or 'different':** the adult says 2 words and asks the child to identify whether the words are the 'same' or 'different' e.g. 'cat'/'cat' or 'bat'/'cat' etc.
- **Sorting initial sounds:** use rhyming pictures and individual letters/ Jolly Phonics. Make sure the child can identify each letter sound before you start the task. Use groups of rhyming words e.g. 'sea', 'key', 'tea' etc for each task. Say all the words in the group then repeat each word and ask the child to identify the initial sound. Put the picture with the correct sound.
 - Move on to sorting a mixture of pictures/ objects starting with different sounds.
 - When the child is able to complete the above activity, consistently, the above activity can be completed **without** saying the word. If the child finds this difficult continue the activity as above i.e. with the adult saying the word.
- **Syllables:** Talk to the child about syllables in words i.e. words are made up from different parts, some words have one part and others have 2 etc. Model some pictures/ objects first then try some words together. The adult may need to say the word for the child first. Start with words that have 1 or 2 syllables then move on to more. Use bricks to represent the number of syllables in the word and ask the child to clap out the number of syllables as they say the word.
- **Blending sounds:** Try words that the child can easily produce e.g. short words starting with the sounds 'b', 'd', 'f', 'm', 'n' etc. Put the pictures in front of the child and ask them to find the 'b-e-d' (break down the word as you say it). When they have completed this activity several times and have become consistent with this activity ask the child to tell you the word **without** the pictures.
- **Rhyming words:** talk about rhyming words. Put some pictures/ objects in front of the child. Say the words for the child and ask them to identify any words that rhyme. Then ask the child to generate rhyming words.
- **Refer to Letters and sounds- Phase 1**

