

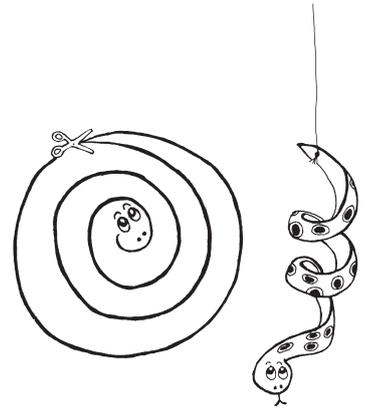
Classroom Activity Ideas

These are a few examples of activities which can be done with children to help make the classroom as multi-sensory and exciting as possible.

Snake Mobiles

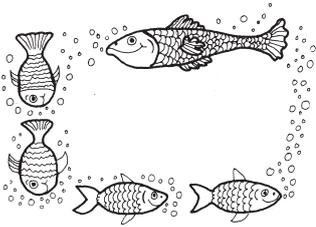
On a piece of paper, draw a curled up snake. Paint or draw inside the snake, then cut round him to make him uncurl.

For grammar, this can be extended by turning them into adjective snakes - they might be spotty, stripy or glittery snakes.



Inky Pictures

Put some ink or paint on one half of a piece of paper. Fold in half and press down.



Flat Fish Race

Cut a fish shape from a piece of newspaper. Use another piece of paper folded into a fan to fan your fish along.

X-Ray Pictures

Cut the shape of an animal from black paper. Use white straws or twisted white paper to make the animal's bones.

Naughty Clowns

Turn paper plates into naughty clown faces using paint or sticky paper. Cut out a short tongue and a longer tongue from pink paper and stick them on the clowns. Write **th** on one and **th** on the other.



I-Spy

Play I-spy to see what sounds the children can hear in words.

Simon Says

Play Simon Says using the Jolly Phonics actions to build their listening skills as well as helping them to remember the letter sounds.

Storytelling

Either pick one child each day, or get the children to work in pairs or small groups to re-tell (or tell their own version of) the story for the last letter sound they learned. This not only revises the letter sound, it also builds memory, language, speaking and listening skills.

Singing

Sing the Jolly Songs as a group with the children. This can be singing along with the CD or singing independently. Singing Nursery Rhymes and other traditional songs also helps children with literacy skills, especially if they have English as a second language.

Word Mimes

Using the Jolly Phonics actions, mime out a short word for the children to guess. This also works well as a pairs game or in small groups.

Bottle Top Blending and Segmenting

Collect (or get the children to collect) plastic milk bottle tops. Write the letter sounds (including digraphs) on the caps and dictate sounds to the children. You can work with small groups of letter sounds at a time to speed the game up. Once they have identified the right letter sounds, ask them to blend the word. Alternatively, say a word and ask them to sound it out, identifying the correct letter sounds from their bottle tops.

Raindrop Mobiles

String together some paper raindrops with different <ai> words. Add to this with alternative spellings such as <ay>, <a_e>. This can also be done with other shapes, such as bees for <ee> and <ea> words, or eyes for <ie>, <y>, <e_e> and <igh>.

Corners Game

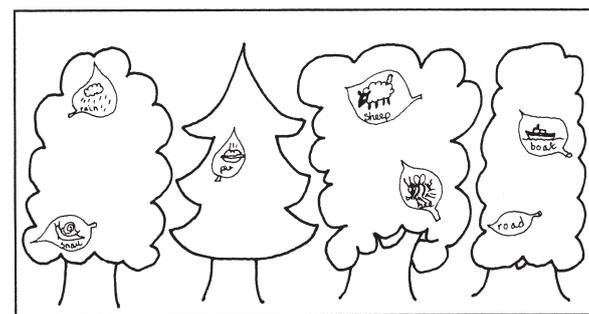
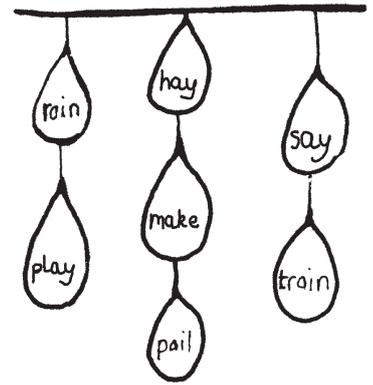
In an empty room or in the playground, pin up large print-outs of alternative spellings of letter sounds. Say a word and ask the children to indicate what spelling they think it uses by running or walking to the right sign.

For grammar lessons this can be expanded by putting parts of speech such as 'verb' 'noun', 'pronoun' or 'preposition' in corners. Call out words and ask the children to identify which part of speech it is. Be careful with your phrasing, however, as some words can change depending on the context.

Flying Bees

Cut a semi-circle of paper or card. Give it yellow and black stripes. Fix the 2 sides together to form a cone. Cut some wings from tissue paper and give your bee some eyes. For phonics, these can just be used for the letter sound <z>.

For grammar lessons, you can turn these into Verb Bees by sticking the infinitive form of different verbs on to them: i.e. 'to run', 'to dance'.



Vowel Forests

Cut out large tree shapes and stick them on a big piece of paper, or on a wall display. Find words or pictures with the different vowel sounds and stick them on the correct tree. You can start with the main spellings and then add alternative spellings as you learn them.

Class Dictionary

Make a class dictionary using the letter sound in that week's spelling lesson. For example, for 'ch' each child is given a blank piece of A4 paper. They locate a <ch> word, write the meaning of this word and place it in a sentence. They can also draw a picture to go with it if appropriate. These are collected and the children work together to place them in alphabetical order. Now they have created their very own 'ch' dictionary.

Alternative Letter Sound Story Book

Children make up their own stories using as many words as they can containing a given letter sound. For example, for <ie> they could use words such as I, my, high, kite. Eventually, they can collect all their stories into their own alternative letter sound story book.

Homophone Action Game

In pairs or small groups, ask the children to think of actions to show the meanings of different homophones. Give each group a different set of homophones. One group at a time can then come up to the front and write their homophones on the board before showing the rest of the class to help them remember the meanings and spellings. For example, for 'knight' the children could pretend to be knights in shining armour and for 'night' they could pretend to be going to sleep.