

Next week is half term break. Although some of the children are looking ready for a week off, they have had an excellent first half term and we have been really pleased with how well everyone has settled and picked up routines. Thank you for all your help and support in getting them off to a good start.

Next half term we will be continuing the topic of 'This is Me!' The first week back we will start to look at 'Families and Pets'. The children are welcome to bring in pictures of their family or pets to share. We will also be continuing to explore 'What I Like' and 'My Feelings'. You could support the children at home by talking about things they like to do and what makes them feel happy. We started to talk about this in class last week.

We hope you have been finding the Newsletter helpful. Please let us know if there is ever anything you would like additional information about. We hope the information in our last newsletter about our approach to early reading was useful. This week we have included a game to develop phonemic awareness. We will offer more of these through the term.

We hope you all have a lovely Autumn break, and the children have a relaxing week off ready for a busy, exciting second half of the term as we head towards Christmas!

Best wishes

Ellie Green & Kelly McIlroy

## Home Activity

### Phonemic Awareness Activity



*Listening Games - Listening to sequences of sounds*

**Objective:** To develop the memory and attention abilities for thinking about sequences of sounds and the language for discussing them.

**Materials needed:** Objects that make interesting, distinctive sounds, for example:

|   |   |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| banging on wall/table/lap<br>blowing<br>blowing a whistle<br>blowing nose<br>clicking with tongue | cutting with a knife<br>cutting with scissors<br>dropping (various things)<br>drumming with fingers<br>rubbing hands together | opening window/drawer<br>pouring liquid<br>ringing a bell<br>coughing<br>scratching | sharpening a pencil<br>slamming a book<br>snapping fingers<br>stamping<br>stirring with teaspoon | eating an apple<br>clapping<br>hammering<br>noisy chewing<br>whistling | colouring hard on paper<br>tearing paper<br>crumpling paper<br>folding paper<br>closing purse |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|

### Activity

In this game, challenge your child to identify single sounds and then to identify each one of a sequence of sounds. Both will be very important in the language games to come. Ask them to cover their eyes with their hands while you make a familiar noise such as closing the door, sneezing, or playing a key on a keyboard. By listening carefully and without peeking, the children are to try to identify the noise.

Once the children have caught on to the game make two noises, one after the other. Without peeking, the children are to guess the two sounds in sequence, you can help them by saying, "*There were two sounds. First, we heard a \_\_\_\_, and then we heard a \_\_\_\_.*"

After the children have become quite good with pairs of noises, produce a series of more than two for them to identify and report in sequence. Again, encourage children to use complete sentences to help their speech development.

### Variations

With the children's eyes closed, make a series of sounds. Then repeat the sequence but omit one of the sounds. The children must identify the sound that has been omitted from the second sequence.

These games also offer good opportunities to develop children's use of ordinal terms, such as first, second, third, middle, last. Gaining comfortable, receptive, and expressive command of these terms is useful.