

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!' This week we will finish our work on 'our faces' and 'our bodies'. The first week back we will start to think about families and pets. The children are welcome to bring in pictures of their family or pets to share.

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 with last week's newsletter about books we read was useful. This week we are sharing some information on Phonemic awareness. Below is a game to develop phonemic awareness. We will offer more activities 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! You may have noted in the Woodstock weekly the date for the Nativity is December 13<sup>th</sup> @ 9:45 and 2:00pm. You will receive more details next half term. Monday 30<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day, so we look forward to seeing you on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

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