

## Phonetic Phun

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Phonetic Phun introduces the use of phonics and the beginning phonetic exercises and materials for use in Montessori classrooms for children three to six years old.

### 1. Introductory Games

The “**I spy**” game is played by placing different objects in front of the children, then saying “I spy something that starts with the sound ssss” and the children look for the correct object.

**Listening games** – ask the children what sounds they hear when you say “cat” or “dog”, etc.

Children can also listen to words and be asked if they hear a particular sound at the beginning, middle or end of a word.

**Reading stories and poems** is always important for exposing children to new words, experiences and ideas.

### 2. Sandpaper letters

Sandpaper letters are introduced by tracing the letter correctly and giving the phonetic sound for each letter during a three period lesson.

### 3. Beginning, Ending and Middle sound charts

Children are able to identify beginning sounds of words first, so charts of letter groupings can be used with objects or pictures for the children to match to each letter. Eg. For C – cat, comb, cork, etc

Similar charts for Ending sounds are introduced next and the final charts are for middle sounds as these are the most difficult to identify.

#### **4. Large Movable Alphabet**

Children are first given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the locations of letters in the Large Movable Alphabet boxes. Following that, the child is given practice listening to the sounds of three letter words and finding the letters that make those sounds. Eg. pot, map, cat, etc. The child may not identify the sounds in the correct sequence, but that is okay at this stage. They should not be asked to read the word they create as they may not be able to do that at this time. This is strictly a sound association exercise of spelling, not reading.

The child needs a lot of practice at this time building words using objects and/or pictures.

#### **5. Pink Phonetic Materials**

- Much practice over many days is needed with each exercise

##### **1) Objects and Cards**

This is the first reading exercise. A pink box with 6 to 8 objects representing two and three lettered phonetic words and word cards is used. The objects are set out in short rows and the word cards are read and set out to match the object.

##### **2) Pictures and Cards**

This is the second level of pink reading exercises. The pictures are laid out in two horizontal lines and the word cards are read and placed underneath the correct picture.

##### **3) Sheets of Pictures and Cards**

The child reads the card and places it under the appropriate picture.

##### **4) Booklets**

This is the first step without pictures to help the child figure out the word. Small booklets have one short phonetic word to read on each page.

## **5) Word Lists**

As the child's confidence with reading increases, lists of two and three lettered phonetic words are introduced for the child to read when he likes.

## **6) Secrets Box**

Short phonetic words are printed on folded paper. The child is encouraged to read to himself with out sounding the words aloud. This is the first introduction to silent reading.

## **6. Blue Phonetic Materials**

- The same sequence of reading materials is presented as has been described with the pink serried materials. The Blue series materials consists of longer phonetic words of four or more letters.
- The introduction of puzzle (sight) words may begin so that the child will be ready for reading sentences. (eg. the, was, put, you, he, of,etc.)

## **7) Sentences**

Sentences with objects are introduced first. Children will practice reading comprehension by selecting the correct objects referred to in a sentence and performing the action needed. Eg. The cat sits on a bed.

Sentences with pictures are introduced next. Children read the sentence and find the picture to illustrate it.

## **8) Stories**

Blue booklets or story books are introduced with each telling a different story, using all phonetic words and a few puzzle words. These books have just one short statement per page and the picture opposite illustrates the sentence.

## **Suggestions for Teacher made materials**

Teachers may collect objects for sentences and create interesting sentences and pictures for children to practice with.

The following lists give you some phonetic words that will help you in your sentence building exercises.

### **School**

bell	desk	map	flag	cap	pen
ten	seven	class	helmet	clock	inset
mat	rug	blocks	test	box	bus
sand	fun	sum	add	subtract	plant

### **Home**

mom	dad	mop	pot	lid	cup
mug	rug	mat	sink	tongs	dust
pan	smock	milk	infant	hotdog	bed
bun	jam	banana	glass	blanket	pop

### **Farm**

dog	cat	hen	rat	egg	ox
pig	hog	piglet	duck	loft	nest
pond	wagon	flock	hat	mud	sun
land	sack	stack	truck	rock	milk

### **Backyard**

bug	sun	frog	deck	bud	stem
ant	log	tent	camp	grass	hill
picnic	plant	twig	nest	rock	stump
rabbit	cricket	blossom	blanket	basket	swing

### **Pink Level Verbs**

act	pat	ran	sat	tap	wag
beg	bet	fed	get	led	met
pet	mix	set	bit	fit	hid
hit	sip	sit	tip	got	nod
sob	cut	dug	rub	tug	ask
dig	fix	hop			

### **Blue Level Verbs**

bang	clap	grasp	rang	sank	stack
stamp	stand	taps	bend	crept	fell
felt	help	lend	press	send	slept
step	bring	drink	kick	ring	sing
swim	swing	trip	drips	drop	romp
trot	jump	hops			