



Introduction

Children are taught to read using phonics, which is all about the sounds that make up words. By learning the letters and the sounds they make, and how to put them together, children begin to make and read simple words. They then learn how letters combine to make new sounds e.g. SH and move on to longer words and new reading skills.

The following activities are designed to help the development of these skills and are supported by a teddy called Mr Tig Tog – your child can choose any of their favourite teddies to be Mr Tig Tog! We hope that using their favourite teddy will help your child engage with the activity with excitement and enthusiasm.

Please note, there are no right or wrong ways to use the suggested activities. We hope you enjoy!



The odd one out

Activity 1: The Odd One Out

What you need:

A collection of household props or picture cards of things beginning with the same sound and one that does not 'fit the group'.

What you do:

Explain to your child that Mr Tig Tog has some things in his bag that he thinks all begin with the same sound. Go onto explain that, he sometimes gets things wrong and that he might need a little help. Let him get his items out of the bag one by one so that your child can tell him the 'beginning' sounds and see if he has any that do not fit. If he gets it right and everything starts with the same sound, get your child to give him a clap.



Mr Tig Tog's Walk

Activity 2: Mr Tig Tog's Walk

What you need:

Mr Tig Tog and a camera

What you do:

Explain to your child that they are going to choose a sound and then take Mr Tig for a walk around the garden or house looking for and photographing things that begin with that sound. When you're finished you could print out the photos for Mr Tig Tog. You might want to put them on the wall and make a special display for him.



Mr Tig Tog's Sound Bag

Activity 3: Mr Tig Tog's Sound Bag

What you need:

A bag filled with props or pictures of things that make interesting sounds, for example, a mobile phone, a toy train, a fire engine, a police car, a robot, an alien etc.

What you do:

Explain to your child that Mr Tig Tog has spent a long-time collecting props and pictures for a game and that he wants to see if they can make a noise of the things in his bag. Get your child to choose a prop or picture from his bag and ask them to make the appropriate sound.



Mr Tig Tog gets left outside

Activity 4: Mr Tig Tog gets left outside

What you need:

Mr Tig Tog

What you do:

Explain to your child that last night Mr Tig Tog got left outside in the garden. While he was out there, he heard lots and lots of different noises. Ask your child to see if they can think of all the things he heard. They may come up with ideas like the wind whistling, dogs barking, police sirens, gates creaking, owls hooting, taps dripping, music blaring, bells ringing, clocks chiming etc. As they come up with ideas ask them to see if they can use their voice to make the sounds of those things.



Mr Tig Tog's picture

Activity 5: Mr Tig Tog's picture

What you need:

Mr Tig Tog and a selection of pictures or posters of noisy places, for example, a fair, a railway station, a farm, a zoo, a swimming pool, a park etc.

What you do:

Talk with your child about what they can see in the picture and which things would make a noise. Once you have done this, encourage them to try using voice sounds to make the noises. You can always tell a story about the picture and encourage your child to make the appropriate sounds at the appropriate points in the story.

