

Santa's Sack Snap (Reading)

Learning Objectives

To recognise some letters correctly in words
To blend to read simple words and simple sentences

Ingredients

The Box of Tricks

Collect objects including the relevant letters and sounds for each group.
There should be enough for 2 per child.
Word cards to match each of the objects chosen (including 'it', 'is' and 'a').
'Is it a...?' sentence cards to match the objects chosen.
2 Santa sacks; 1 sack will contain objects, 1 sack will contain the sentences
Santa hats for the children to wear (optional)!

Method

Show the children the objects needed for the game.

Orally segment the letter sounds in each of the objects. This could be done by clapping or jumping each phoneme as it is spoken or counting the number of phonemes using fingers. Do this process all together with the children joining in, placing each object in the first Santa sack on completion.

Practise blending the letters and sounds they have been practising during discrete phonics sessions using the word cards. Model the reading process using the word cards to match the objects hidden from the group. Point to each letter as the children join in with saying each sound, blending the sounds to read the whole word all together.

Practise reading the 'It is a ...?' sentences all together. The children will probably need the process of rereading the sentence after the blending of each new word demonstrating in detail. Place all of the sentence cards in the second sack on completion.

Support the children in taking turns to pick an object out of the first Santa sack.

Once each child has an object, support the children taking turns to pick a sentence from the second sack.

Expect the children to attempt to read the sentences independently, supporting and challenging as required.

When a child has a match of object and sentence, he/she gets to keep them for the remainder of the game.

When a match is not found, the objects and sentences are returned to the sacks and play is repeated as before.

The game is complete when all of Santa's objects and sentences have been matched.

Variations

Help less able children with plenty of adult support. Some children may struggle to concentrate, so you might want to consider working in smaller groups with fewer objects. Others may still struggle with reading a whole sentence and might benefit from using single word cards, rather than the sentences.

Challenge more able children by using objects in the bag which have more complicated or longer words associated with them.

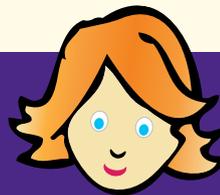
The Sweet Smell of Success!



Can the children...

- Maintain attention and concentration to complete the game? With support?
- Follow the simple instructions of the game? With support?
- Take turns when playing? With support?
- Recognise all of the letters and the sounds that they make? With support?
- Blend to read the words on the cards? With support?
- Read simple sentences? With support?

Learning Lady Top Tips!



I always carefully pick the objects to go in the sack. I usually choose objects to match letters and sounds that we've either just been learning or that the children are struggling to remember. It's a great way of reinforcing the letters and sounds by practising blending through a word recognition game.

Santa's Secret Present (Reading)

Learning Objectives

To recognise some letters correctly in words
To blend to read simple words and simple sentences

Ingredients

A number of shoe boxes wrapped in Christmas paper, with a label attached, reading 'To Santa'
(one for each child in the group).
The Box of Tricks: Collect objects including the relevant letters and sounds for each group, initially 1 per child;
place 1 object inside each box
Word cards for each of the objects plus 'is', 'it', 'and 'a'
Question cards for reading 'Is it a ...?' (to match the objects chosen)
Yes / no cards
Santa hats for the players to wear (optional)!

Method

Model the reading process using the word cards to match the objects chosen for the group. Point to each letter as the children join in with saying each sound, blending the sounds to read the whole word all together.

Revise the tricky words 'yes' and 'no' by reading all together before the game begins.

Explain that Santa has placed a mystery object in the box and that the children are going to work out what it could be by reading the questions.

Read the first 'Is it a ...?' sentence all together. The children will probably need the process of rereading the sentence after the blending of each new word demonstrating in detail. It's also a great opportunity to address the use of a question and question mark and demonstration appropriate intonation.

Look inside the present then hold up the answer card, 'yes' or 'no', for all of the children to read together.

If the answer is 'no', further question cards are held up and read until a 'yes' answer is achieved.

When a 'yes' answer is given, open Santa's present to check and celebrate success.

Repeat with other objects hidden with further presents. Try changing roles so that the children get a turn at 'being teacher', deciding what will go in the present and using the yes / no cards independently.

Variations

Encourage less able children with plenty of adult support. This activity is designed to build confidence through a collaborative approach to reading and its repetitive nature should have a significant impact by the time the game is over.

Challenge more able children by providing them with sentences including more complicated or longer words. For children who know a greater number of phonemes, practise reading the tricky word 'be' by changing the sentences to read 'Can it be a ...?'

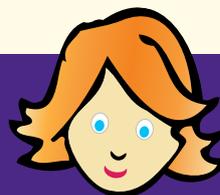
The Sweet Smell of Success!



Can the children...

- Maintain attention and concentration to complete the game? With support?
- Follow the simple instructions of the game? With support?
- Take turns when playing? With support?
- Recognise the tricky words 'yes' and 'no' ? With support?
- Blend to read the words on the cards? With support?
- Read a simple sentence? With support?

Learning Lady Top Tips!



When I place the object in Santa's present I quickly shuffle the question cards to ensure that the one with the hidden object is at the bottom of the pile to be read. This way the children get lots and lots of practise. When you hear squeals of 'I know what it is...I know what it is...' you'll know that the children are thoroughly engrossed and involved in their learning!