Letters and sounds activities - alliteration

Supporting reading development

Alliteration is the repetition of the same sound or letter at the beginning of each or most of the words in a sentence. For example, she sells seashells on the seashore.

Benefits

- Alliteration activities help children to develop an ear for listening.
- To be successful in the early stages of reading, children have to learn to pay attention to the sounds of letters and words.
- Children begin thinking about the sound properties of words as separate from the words meaning. For example a cat is not just a pet but also a word that rhymes with mat and sat.
- Young children who have had adults help them learn to pay attention to the sounds of language develop phonemic awareness (the ability to hear, identify and work with individual sounds in spoken words) are at an advantage when they start school.
- Besides supporting early literacy, rhymes and alliteration can soothe, entertain and help children create a positive attitude towards reading.

Adult role

- Start with alliteration of consonants – wiggly worm, bouncing baby, creepy crawly.
- Support children to recognise words that start with the same consonant.
- Encourage children to play with words. Make up little nonsense alliterative rhymes.
- Use children’s interests to draw their attention to alliteration, for example
  - Peppa Pig, Bob the Builder, Rodney Rotten, Polly Pocket.
  - Use a wide range of nursery rhymes, rhyming stories and tongue twisters.
  - Have class friends that come out to play with the children. Sid the snake, Harry the horse, Fred the frog.
- Make it fun!

Useful links

- Bertha Bus alliteration activity [www.earlylearninghq.org.uk](http://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk)
- Building literacy every day [www.getreadytoread.org](http://www.getreadytoread.org)