



How to Use Flashcards with your Child

Here are some simple ways that you can use flashcards at home to support your child's phonics development. Remember to check with your child's class teacher, so you know which sounds/words they are currently working on.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Split letter-sound/grapheme flashcards into two piles. Hold up a flashcard and ask your child to say the sound. Correct any mistakes and let them keep any cards they identify correctly. Now reverse roles – let them hold up flashcards for you. They will love being the teacher and can correct you if you make any mistakes!</p> | <p>Create a second set of the same flashcards and lay them face down. Take turns in choosing two cards at a time to see if you can find ones that match. Say the sounds as you look at each card. Keep going until all cards are collected. The winner has the most cards.</p> |
| <p>Set a timer and hold up the flashcards one at a time. As soon as your child has said the correct sound, move on to the next flashcard. This is a race! When all cards have been identified stop the timer and record the time. Try to beat this record next time.</p> | <p>Look at the flashcards your child is working with. Try to see if any words can be made using these cards. E.g. the first set of letters are often s, a, t, p, i, n. These can be used to make lots of different words, such as pat, pit, pin, sit, tin, tip, and so on.</p> |
| <p>Lay out all of the flashcards you are working with face up. Say a sound and ask your child to point to the matching card. If they are correct, they get to keep the card. If they are incorrect then show them the correct sound and put it to one side. Talk about the ones they are not sure about at the end of the game. Try to collect more cards next time.</p> | <p>Bury the flashcards in rice, lentils, or shredded paper. Ask your child to randomly pull out a sound or word card and to see if they can identify the sound or word. If they can they get to keep the card. If they cannot then tell them the correct answer and they can bury it for another go.</p> |
| <p>Gather some bowls or boxes and 'label' these with the flashcards. Go around the house together, trying to find things to go into each container, e.g. 'ch' chocolate, 'oo' spoon. If you cannot find things from around the house, then you could draw objects to go with each flashcard.</p> | <p>Have fun with your flashcards!</p> |