Activity ideas to support Learning at Home 2-5 year olds
Early Years Service, Children's Services
Buckinghamshire Council

Sounds All Around
Walk around the house inside or outside and listen to everyday sounds. Describe them and talk about the differences in sounds.

Make noises with everyday objects – keys, packets, turning taps on/off, pots or pans. Carefully listen and talk about the different sounds. Can you make them loudly, softly, fast, slow?

Instruments
Play pots and pans with wooden sticks. Take turns to tap out a pattern and copy each other? Fill plastic containers with different pasta or rice and make a **shaker band**. Use these to play music as you sing and dance.

Sounds we can make
Make different sounds with your body, Can you clap, pop your lips, stamp your feet, click you fingers? Make up a secret handshake. Get creative with thumb wiggles, claps, slaps and clicks to make your greeting. Maybe you could even add a twirl!

**Early Reading
Getting it right from the start**

Alliteration
Play 'I spy objects' which start with the same **SOUND**– sofa, sausage, socks, soap
Have fun with 'Tongue Twisters' she sells Sea shells on the sea shore
Use your Phone **Camera** to take photos of objects that begin with the same sound.
Make silly names for each other – Munching Mummy, Silly Sara, Funny Faizan

Rhythm, Beat and Rhyme
Sing songs and nursery rhymes - you will have favourites but find new ones here - Words for Life.
March in time to the Grand Old Duke of York, *Oh the Grand old duke of York*
He had ten thousand men
He marched them up to the top of the hill
And he marched them down again
And when they were up they were up
And when they were down they were down
And when they were only halfway up
They were neither up nor down

Sounds with our voices
Make up voice sounds when reading e.g. for Goldilocks/ Daddy Bear.
Add sounds for an aeroplane, or a clock then you point to the pictures.
NYAAAAAAAW or TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK,
Sing songs with noises – Old Macdonald had a farm

Blending and Segmenting
Play blending games – ask you child to 'put on your s-o-ck-s, turn on the t-a-p shut the d-oor' You will be leaving a little gap between each sound in the word.
Gym Bunny – pretend to be in an exercise class – Ask you child to j-u-m-p, can you h-o-p adding different actions.

Information for Parents/ Carers

Top Tips

Help your child to develop their listening skills is the first step.

You can help by using lots of songs, nursery rhymes and play together to discover sounds, both hearing and repeating them helps.

Use instruments and your own bodies and voices to make and copy sounds.

Listen out for rhythm and rhyme (e.g. spotting the rhyming words in a nursery rhyme.) Being able to sing 7 nursery rhymes perfectly can help you child to read.

For older children, splitting a word into its separate sounds (e.g. 'd-o-g' makes 'dog') get then ready for reading. **Make sure when you talk about the sounds that letters make use the simplest sound. The letter M makes the mmmmmmm sound and not muh – find out more here**

Most children learn to read during their first year at school, the Reception year. There are lots of things you can be doing before this to give them the best start. This stage is often called Phase 1 of phonics.

Find out More

Hungry Little Minds – Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 – 5
Small Talk - ideas for Parents

CBeebies Storytime

What to expect when – Developmental Guide for Parents

Literacy

You might notice that your child can:

Listen and join in singing nursery rhymes, songs and when you read books.

Join in with rhymes and recognise when words start with the same sound, like 'big boat' and 'tall tower'.

Clap their hands to match the sounds in words, like 2 claps for "he-llo".

Talk about stories, know they have beginnings and endings and sometimes will guess how the story will end.

Can listen to longer stories and talk about the people, places and what is happening.

Can tell you lots of words that rhyme with a word like "hat".

Can hear and tell you the first sound in a word when you say the word.

Can say each of the sounds in a short word like "cat".

Can put the sounds together and tell you the word when you say each of the sounds like "c-a-t"