

G1: First Things First

Lesson Objective: Using assorted pictures and one consonant letter card, children will hear the names of each pictured item and match the pictures that begin with the displayed letter card phoneme to the displayed letter card.

Materials

- picture cards and word index
- sound cards for the consonants

Print out the picture cards and sound cards, preferably on sturdy card-stock paper, and cut them apart. The word index is for the adult's reference only.

You will want to prop up the sound card for each round so that the child is looking straight at it. Lean it against a block so that it is angled appropriately.

NOTE: Remember how we describe the lower-case letters on the sound cards: "This is what this sound looks like when we write it out."

Activity

Video: How to play First Things First

Select a beginning sound (for example, /nnn/) and put out the appropriate sound card. Find the picture cards that go with that sound (six each for all the letter sounds except q and z, which have just three each).

Now go through each picture card with your child, emphasizing the beginning sound in each word and pointing out the connection to the sound card.

Adult: [pointing to sound card] This is what the /nnn/ sound looks like when we write it.
What's the sound?

Child: /nnn/

Adult: That's right. Here's a picture that starts with /nnn/: nest.
Say nest.

G1: First Things First (continued)

Child: Nest!

Adult: Again: nnnest. You say it.

Child: nnnest

Adult: What sound is at the beginning? Listen: nnnest.

Child: N.

Adult: That's the name of the letter. I need the sound.

Child: /nnn/

Adult: Good job.

Go through the other cards with pictures that start with the /nnn/ sound, repeating the steps above. Each session of this activity should cover just one new letter sound.

NOTE: When pointing to a sound card, make sure your fingertip is below the letter, so the child can see the entire letter.

Reinforcement Song:

Repeat and reinforce these beginning sounds with your child as much as possible.

One way is to use the children's song "Pease Porridge Hot" (This is the same tune as "Hot Cross Buns"). Insert a trio of words from this activity's word list that have the same starting sound. For example:

Adult: Milk, mouse, mat,

Milk, mouse, mat.

What's the sound they start with?

Milk, mouse, mat.

[Signal child to respond.]

Child: /mmm/

Adult: [Give thumbs-up sign and sing:]

Milk, mouse, mat.

Milk, mouse, mat.

G1: First Things First (continued)


/mmm/ is the sound they start with!

Milk, mouse, mat.

Once the child understands how the song works, encourage him to sing along with you. Sing this song frequently, with different beginning sounds, throughout the lessons that follow G1. This song provides review and practice with previously learned beginning sounds while the child moves forward and learns new beginning sounds. Once learned, these and future songs about phonemes can and should be reviewed at random times such as transition times, riding in the car, bath time, etc.

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Additional Materials:

 wooden block and sound picture cards for each child

Adaptation: Read the main activity, watch the video, and follow the instructions above, with the following changes:

Show the sound picture card. Give each child the /m/ sound letter card and a block for propping it up. Go over the picture cards for the /mmm/ sound. Have the children name the pictures with you. Follow the schedule for introducing starting sounds.

Sing “Pease Porridge Hot”, inserting a trio of /m/ words from the word list.