

1. Ball and Hat

Prepare construction paper cards with the letter or letters that you want to present and practice, or print out the Alphabet Cards (on the Teacher's Resource CD). Put the cards in a hat. Play some music and have students pass the hat and the ball around. Stop the music. The student with the hat must take out a card and call out the letter on it. The student with the ball must say the letter sound.



2. Bounce It

Have students sit in a circle. Hold up a flashcard. Throw a ball to the first student who says the beginning sound of the word represented in that flashcard. Encourage them to do the same to another student and so on. You can continue the activity saying a beginning sound and a complete word.



3. Criss-Cross Phonics

Ask students to stand up. Show a picture or a flashcard. The first student to raise their hand gets called upon. If he or she says the beginning sound of that word correctly, he or she can sit down. The children in the same row, horizontally or vertically, can also sit down. Gradually, there will be fewer and fewer students standing. When you no longer have rows to choose from, only individual students will sit.



4. Missing Sound

Draw or show an image on the board. Write the corresponding word next to the image and delete one of the letters. For example, write -og next to a picture of a dog on the board. Encourage students to provide you with the missing sound (not the letter). This activity can be made into a group contest or a simple whole-class exercise.



5. Musical Chairs

Place flashcards on chairs. Get students to walk around the chairs and say the beginning sound of one of the words on the flashcards. The first student to find that word should slap the flashcard, say the letter sound and read the complete word. Have students sit down if they say the word correctly. Remove a chair and a flashcard after each round.



6. Star

Draw a big star on the classroom floor with a different letter on each point. Have students stand in the middle of the star. Say a word and have students run to the point where the beginning sound of that word is. Ask them to say the sound and the word.



7. Sound Match-Up

Write the letters of the sounds you want to practice on clothespins. Show students a flashcard or a picture; encourage them to attach the corresponding clothespin to the flashcard or picture depicting the word that has the beginning or middle sound you want to practice.



8. The Beat

Have students work in pairs. Have them stand up facing each other. Establish a simple beat: have them clap their hands with their partner's four times. The first three times, they have to say the beginning letter sound of a word; the fourth time, they should say the complete word, for example, *b, b, b, bird*.



9. Two Sounds

Display two flashcards depicting words that begin with two different sounds you want to practice. Have students take turns to come to the front. Say a word aloud, stressing the beginning sound. Encourage students to point to the flashcard depicting the word with the sound you called out. Do the same with the other flashcard.

