

Parent Resource Guide

Helping Your Child Learn Phonics Through Play

Target age: 5–8 years

Suggested level: CEFR Pre-A1 to A1

Focus: Letter names, letter sounds and simple vocabulary

Learning Objectives**By the end of the activity, your child will be able to:**

- Recognise selected letter names (e.g. L, M, N)
- Produce the correct phonics sounds (e.g. /l/, /m/, /n/)
- Connect sounds to simple vocabulary words (e.g. leg, moon)
- Respond confidently to spoken instructions in English

Key Vocabulary Focus

- Letter names: L, M, N (adapt as needed)
- Letter sounds: /l/, /m/, /n/

Vocabulary examples: leg, moon, nose

Home Activity: Step-by-Step Guide (10–15 minutes)

This activity uses a communicative, multi-sensory TESOL approach — combining movement, listening and speaking.

Step 1: Prepare the Space

- Place three pieces of paper on the floor with capital letters written clearly (e.g. L, M, N).
- If possible, use different colours.
- Give your child a small soft toy.

Step 2: Model First (Scaffolding)

- Say clearly and slowly:
 - “L – /l/ – leg.”
- Ask your child to repeat.
- Demonstrate throwing the toy onto the correct letter.

Step 3: Guided Practice

- Call out:
 - The letter name (“Letter L”)
 - A vocabulary word (“moon”)
 - The letter sound (“/n/”)
- Encourage your child to throw the toy onto the correct letter.
- Provide immediate praise and correction gently if needed.
 - “Great listening!”
 - “Let’s try again. Moon starts with /m/.”

Step 4: Independent Practice

- Let your child become the “teacher”.
- They call out the sound or word, and you throw the toy.
- This builds confidence and reinforces learning.

Listening & Pronunciation Practice

- Exaggerate the initial sound: “L-l-l-leg.”
- Encourage your child to look at your mouth when you pronounce sounds.
- Ask: “Is this /l/ or /n/?” and say a word.

Keep practice short and positive.

Simple Comprehension Questions

After playing, ask:

- Which letter makes the /l/ sound?
- Can you think of another word that starts with /m/?
- Which sound was your favourite today?

Encourage full-sentence answers where possible:

- "Moon starts with /m/."

Extension Activities (Optional)

- Ask your child to write one word for each letter.
- Draw a picture of a word beginning with the target sound.
- Play "I Spy": "I spy something that starts with /n/."

Why This Works (TESOL Approach)

This activity:

- ✓ Uses physical movement (kinaesthetic learning)
- ✓ Encourages repetition in meaningful contexts
- ✓ Builds sound-symbol awareness
- ✓ Develops listening discrimination
- ✓ Makes learning communicative and interactive

Short, regular practice (10 minutes, 3 times per week) is more effective than long sessions.