



Timothy Tiger's Teaching Tips!

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If you wonder how you can turn a nursery rhyme into a wonderful phonemic awareness activity with Zoo-phonics, here's an example. You can do this with any letter sound on which you want to focus.

Let's teach the short "i" sound with inny inchworm:

1. Read the nursery rhyme "Little Maid." (Hear that short /i/ sound?) Signal all the short /i/ sounds in the text (little, whither, in, milk and with).
2. Take some /i/ words, segment them, and then put them back together. For example, pronounce the word "b - iiiiiiiii - g." (Really stretch out the /i/ sound as you Signal inny inchworm.) Children are to listen, and then shout out "big!" Try these words: if, is, in, bit, fit, hit, sit, dig, pin, win, it, sip, his and six.
3. Sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Hear those short /i/ words? Signal as you sing every time you hear inny's sound. Sing the song a second time, and this time clap out the rhythm. Which words rhyme? (spout - out; rain - again.)