

Letter Boxes

1. Naming objects

- Let the children hold the objects and pass them around
- Ask questions about the objects:
 - ✓ Have you seen one of these?
 - ✓ What do we use this for?
 - ✓ What colour is it?
 - ✓ How does it feel?
- Play charades – children take an object out of the box without anyone seeing. They must act out or give verbal clues so that the other children can guess what they have in their hand.

2. Listening for beginning sounds

- Say the names of the objects while emphasising the beginning sound e.g. b-b-b-b-ball; mmmm money; sssss snake.
- Say to the children: 'Listen to this word: ssssnake. Can you hear what sound 'snake' starts with? What is the first sound of the word?'
- Encourage the children to emphasise the beginning sound when they say a word e.g. c-c-c-c cat. Use a mirror so that they can see how their mouth looks when they make a sound.
- Spread objects with different beginning sounds in the middle of the circle and ask children to find objects beginning with a specific sound. As each picture is found, the children must say the beginning sound and the word e.g. f-f-f-f-f-fish.
- Give each child an object – say a sound and all those children who have an object starting with that sound can come forward.

