

Izzy the Lizard

by

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A read aloud and read along book for early literacy learning

* Enjoy reading this book aloud to the children. Use rhythm and phrasing to have fun with the words. Read the book slowly with intonation and expression. After you have read it, go back and look at some of the words.

* Remember you are focusing on sounds ('a' as in 'apple'; 'b' as in 'book'; 'c' as in 'cat') NOT the letter names (ABC).

* Focus on one skill a day, even if it is repetitive, as long as the children are enjoying the tasks.

* If you would like to hear the sounds of the alphabet and more information about the sounds in words go to:

http://www.phonicsinternational.com/hear_the_sounds/hear_the_sounds_1.htm

* If the children have listened to the book many times, try to get them to recite the words with you as you read. Then get them to recite the book on their own, like they would do a Nursery Rhyme. This is why the books are short and simple. Children love to recite rhyming stories and love hearing and saying rhythmic language.

TEACHER GUIDE: PAGE by PAGE

PAGE 1

Syllables:

Syllables are 'chunks' or 'beats' of sounds in words. Each chunk or beat has to have a vowel sound in it.

Ask

What is the lizard's name? Clap the syllables of her name Iz/zy (2); the (1); Liz/ard (2).

Clap the syllables in each child's name. Do the whole group.

Group the children into categories of 1 syllable names (Tom), 2 syllable names (Le/on), 3 syllable names (Ma/ri/a) etc. You clap a certain number of times and the children have to respond to the number of claps if it is the same as their name. This activity is a great lesson break. E.g. lining up to go out for recess; moving from the floor to tables etc.

Hearing beginning sounds: 'b'

Hearing beginning sounds means hearing the beginning sound of a word that matches the beginning sound of another word.

Say

'big' starts with the short sound 'b'. 'blue' starts with 'b'. They sound the same. What other words can we say that start with 'b' (box, boat, bye etc)?

Hearing beginning sounds that do not match: 'I' and 'L'

Hearing beginning sounds means hearing the beginning sound of 2 words to see if they match.

Say

'Izzy the Lizard'

Ask

Do these words start with the same sound? What sound does 'Izzy' start with ('i')? What sound does 'Lizard' start with ('l')? They do *not* start with the same sound. Do you know any more words that start with the 'i' sound (insect, itchy, Indian etc)? Do you know any more words that start with the 'l' sound (lunch, love, light etc)?

Rhyming:

Rhyming words sound the same at the end.

Read the sentences again.

Say

'fat/flat' When we say these words they rhyme. They sound the same at the end.

How many rhyming words can we make up that end with 'at' (mat, rat, bat, splat etc)?

Words and spaces:

Read the first sentence and point to each word.

Count the number of words in the sentence with the children. Point to each word as you count them (7 words).

Touch each space or gap between the words (6 spaces).

Say

These spaces show where the words end and begin. When we write we need to have spaces between words.

Read the second sentence and point to each word. Count the number of words in the sentence with the children. Point to each word as you count them (11 words).

Touch each space or gap between the words (10 spaces). Count them with the children.

PAGE 2

Rhyming:

Read the sentences again.

Say

'pots/forget-me-nots' When we say these words they rhyme. They sound the same at the end.

How many rhyming words can we make up that end with 'ot' (lot, rot, pot, spot etc)?

Syllables:

Count the syllables in for/get/-me/-nots (4). Clap it out.

Hearing beginning sounds: 'g'

Say

'gorgeous garden' Both these words start with the 'g' sound. Can you think of more 'g' words (gate, grass, good etc)?

PAGE 3

Rhyming:

Read the sentence again.

Say

'sunny/funny' These words rhyme too. What other words rhyme with 'sunny' and 'funny' (runny, honey, bunny, money etc)?

PAGE 4

Rhyming:

Read the sentences again.

Say

There are three rhyming words on this page. Can you tell me them (wizards, lizards, gizzards)?

PAGE 5

Rhyming:

Read the sentence again.

Say

There are some rhyming words in this sentence. What are they (sun/run)?

PAGE 6

Hearing beginning sounds: 'G'

Say

'Gertie the Garden Gnome' 'Gertie' and 'Garden' both start with the 'g' sound. Does the word 'Gnome' have a 'g' sound at the beginning? No. It has an 'n' sound at the front. It is a tricky word.

Rhyming:

Read the sentences again.

Say

There are two words that rhyme on this page. Do you know which ones (Izzy/busy)? Even though the letters are different at the end they still rhyme. They sound the same at the end.

PAGE 7

Rhyming:

Read the sentences again.

Say

Which words rhyme on this page (around/found)?

PAGE 8

Rhyming:

Ask

Are there any rhyming words on this page? What are they (late, gate)?

PAGE 9

Rhyming:

Read the first sentence again.

Say

There are three words that rhyme in this sentence (walking, stalking, talking). Can you hear them? Let's count them.

Rhyming:

Read the second and third sentences again.

Say

'cat/fat' How many 'at' words can you say (mat, cat, bat, rat, hat, flat etc)?

PAGE 10

Rhyming:

Read the sentences again.

Say

There are some rhyming words on this page. Can you find them (gate/fate; pounced/flounced)?

PAGE 11

Rhyming:

Read the sentence again.

Ask

Can you hear some rhyming words on this page? See if you can hear and say four (quite/sight/flight/fright).

PAGE 12

Hearing beginning sounds: blends 'fr'

Blends are when we say two sounds together as one sound e.g. 'fr' is really 'f/r' but we say it smoothly as 'fr'. This is blending two sounds into one blend ('f' and 'r' into 'fr').

Say

'freaky frizzles' Can you hear that they start with the same sound? What sound is that ('fr' as in frog)? Can you hear that 'fr' has two sounds ('f/r')?

Note: Digraphs (sh, ch, th, wh) have 2 letters but 1 sound. Blends have 2 letters and 2 sounds, blended together (fr, cl, nt, mp)

PAGE 13

Hearing beginning sounds: 'p'

Say

'pouncing pussies' Can you hear they start with the same sound? What sound is that ('p' as in park, play, puppy)?

Rhyming:

Ask

Are there any rhyming words on this page? See if you can find them (scary/hairy).

EXTENSION

* It is fine if the children memorise the whole book. This is a good pre-reading strategy but it does not mean that the children are really reading. Reciting each page and touching each word as they say it, is great for their 1:1 word correspondence.

* If the children have not seen a blue-tongue lizard (native of Australia), research these creatures on the internet or take them to a zoo or reptile park. Talk about the predators of lizards in your garden and how you can protect these lizards.



Discuss why they are good for your garden (they eat slugs and snails). This increases the children's vocabulary.

* Research online these different types of flowers; pansies, roses and forget-me-nots. Go to a plant nursery and look at all the different types of flowers. Grow some in pots.



PAGE 1

Initial sounds matching:

Read the sentences again.

Find all the 'b' words on the page (3). Find all the 'f' words on the page (2).

PAGE 2

Initial sounds matching: 'p'

Ask

Can you find three 'p' words on this page?

PAGE 4

Vocabulary:

Explain about wizards and how they make magic. Discuss that they must get hungry all the time because they are so busy making magic. Talk about the word 'gizzards' and that it means guts or intestines (Yuck!)

The saying 'greedy guts' means someone who eats too much (another meaning for 'guts'). Discuss being hungry and what you and the children like to eat when you are hungry. Talk about how much you would need to eat to be a 'greedy guts'. Have fun exaggerating!

PAGE 5

Vocabulary:

The word 'basking' means 'lying in the sun'. Discuss the fact that lizards are cold blooded animals that need to lie in the sun to get energy. Research other cold blooded animals. This increases the children's vocabulary.

PAGE 6

Intonation:

When we read aloud we use intonation and expression. This is when you say words softly or loudly or normally.

Say the word 'Pssst' in a soft voice. Have fun and talk in whispers for a while, then speak in a normal voice and then a loud voice. Play with these intonations.

PAGE 7

Vocabulary:

The word 'frantically' is based on the word 'frantic' meaning 'wildly excited' or 'frenzied'. Talk about how Izzy would be feeling when the cat starts to stalk her. Discuss the word 'escape'.

PAGE 8

Vocabulary:

Talk about the word 'dashed'. It means that Izzy had to rush away. The word 'dive' is an action describing how Izzy got under the gate but it is not quite the same meaning as to 'dive' into the water. Discuss.

PAGE 9

Hearing final sounds: 'ing'

There are a lot of words on this page that end with 'ing' (4). Let's find them and say them (walking, stalking, talking, eating). They all end in 'ing' but only three of them rhyme. Which ones?

PAGE 10

Vocabulary:

Talk about the word 'scrambled'. It means 'to move over rough ground' in this sentence but it can mean scrambled like in eggs! Discuss the context of this word in this sentence.

Act out how someone might 'flounce'. It means 'to go or move with an impatient or violent movement'.

PAGE 11

Visualising:

See if the children can make a movie or a picture in their minds of Puss-E-Cat getting stuck in the gate. Show how you make a face showing fright! Point out that the exclamation mark shows shock or emphasis. Draw how you see the cat looking stuck in the gate with a fright! Act out this scene from the book.

PAGE 12

Alliteration: 'Gertie the Garden Gnome got the giggles'

Alliteration is when there are words together that start with the same sound.

Read the first sentence again.

Say

Can you hear that lots of those words start with the 'g' sound? Let's practice saying that sentence together again. Let's count how many 'g' sound words that you can hear (4).

Silent letter: 'G'

There is a tricky word in this sentence. It has a silent 'G' at the beginning. Say the word 'Gnome'.

Ask

What sound can you hear at the beginning ('nn')? Repeat the word 'Gnome'. Touch the word on the page and show the children the letter 'G'.

Ask

Can you hear that Gnome starts with the 'n' sound not 'G'? The 'G' is silent in this word. It is a tricky word. Other silent 'g' words are gnat, gnaw, gnocchi. Talk about the meaning of these words. Use a dictionary to find other 'gn' words.

It is good for children to see adults researching for answers!

Don't forget to read this book with rhythm and expression. Have fun with the words, story and language!