

Word Play:

Setting the stage for literacy learning

Why it's important:

Hearing the sounds in words lays the groundwork for reading!

- Hearing the individual sounds in words is called **phonemic awareness**. Connecting those sounds to printed letters is called **phonics**.
- When your child sees the sounds represented by letters in print, this helps consolidate their letter recognition and the connection between letters and sounds.
- **This activity is a fun challenge of making a chain of words that have first and last letters in common.**



First Letter, Last Letter

In this activity you will make a chain of words building on the first letter and last letter of your partner(s).

Start with a word: stop

The next person has to use the last letter (p) as the beginning of their word: potato

The next person has to contribute a word that starts with o. and so on....

If you can't think of one...you decide the rule:

**you can ask for help
or
you are out!**

Challenge?

Including digraphs, (sh, ch, th) will shift the focus from letters to sounds.

**You can add rules. For example:
must have 2 syllables,
can't be a name or proper noun
can only be of a certain category
(food, toys, nature, etc.)**

***tip: writing down and creating the "chain" so kids can see it can help solidify the connection between print and speech. It will also help you remember which words you have already used. Which category gives you the most words?**