Natural Phonics
Create sentences with natural items to explore different sounds and homophones

Activity:

Decide on a sound that you want to explore and create a key with the children where natural items replace each spelling of the sound.

Write some example words on the playground with chalk which contain the sounds in the key but replace them with the correct natural object. Ask the children to guess what words you have written and tell you/write down how they are spelt correctly.

Children could work in teams to write words or sentences using the key. Can another teamwork out what you have written?

Example key:

Leaf = ‘oo’
Stick = ‘ue’
Stone = ‘ew’
Seed = ‘o’

Extension:

Challenge the children to explore homophones e.g. due, do, dew, and think about their different spellings and definitions. Can they come up with a way to remember how each meaning is spelt?

Background information:

The English language is one of the hardest to learn and spell because we have so many different letter combinations to make the same sounds. For example, there, their and they’re all sound exactly the same but are spelt differently and have their own meanings. This is an example of a homophone.

Using natural resources, this activity can help children to explore different letters and sounds and how they are used words. They can also look at the different meanings associated with each word and its spelling.

For more resources visit www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources

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