

Reading and spelling activities using the

# Sound Swap Word Game

A Little Learners Love Literacy® resource by Maureen Pollard

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# Sound Swap Word Game

A fun game for 2 players

s w i ng

t ow n

z ar k sh

# Stage 5

Adjacent consonants

s f a p c i l

lap  
clap  
clip  
lip  
slip  
slap  
lap  
flap  
flip

s a p t

b n d l v e

an bent  
and bend  
sand blend  
send lend  
spend lent  
send sent  
sent vent  
dent vet  
den set  
ten sent  
ben spent

s a p t c i

o d l r

tap  
trap  
trip  
rip  
drip  
drop  
crop  
cop  
cap  
sap  
slap  
slip

m s f a p t i

o l

flap  
flop  
flin

s f a p t i

n o g l w

top  
stop  
slop  
slap  
lap  
flap  
flat  
flan  
fan  
fin  
win  
wig  
twig  
twigs

m a p t c

d l r u

lump  
clump  
clamp  
camp  
damp  
ramp  
ram  
tram  
pram  
cram

s f a p t c i

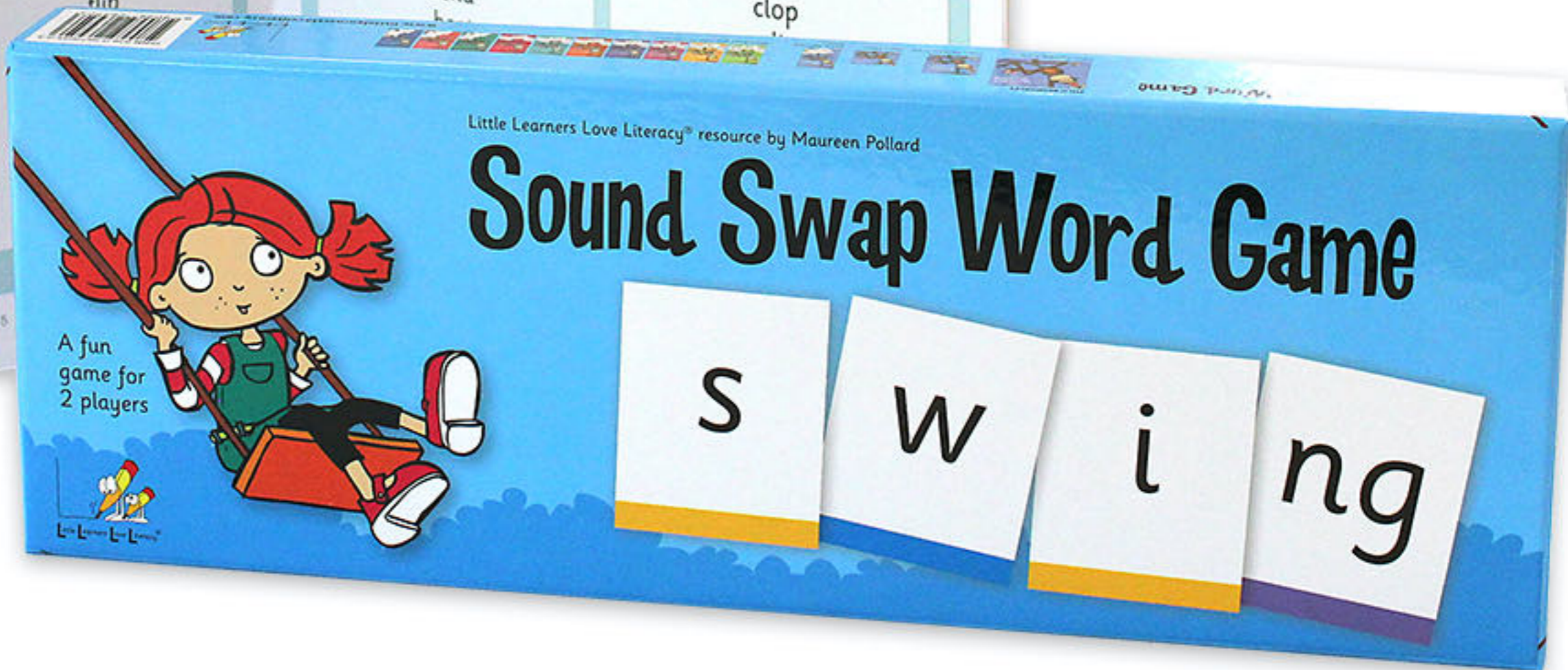
o g l

lip  
slip  
slap  
slop  
clop

s a t b n

d l e

band  
bend



## Stage 6

Consonant digraphs

|   |   |    |   |    |
|---|---|----|---|----|
| s | a | p  | t | i  |
| l | r | qu | u | ck |

pack  
pick  
sick  
slick  
lick  
luck  
tuck  
stuck  
suck  
sack  
stack  
stick  
tick  
tack  
track  
rack  
rick  
lick  
quick  
quack

|   |   |    |    |   |
|---|---|----|----|---|
| a | p | t  | i  | n |
| e | k | ck | th |   |

at  
that  
than  
then  
thin  
think  
thank  
tank  
  
thick  
thin  
than  
pan  
tan  
tin  
ten  
tenth



Practise the short vowel sounds.

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | e | i | o | u |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Place the letter cards in a row. When the teacher says a sound, the child places a finger under the matching vowel letter.

Note: ck always follows a short vowel sound.

|   |   |    |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| m | s | f  | a | p | t | c |
| i | b | n  | o | d | g | l |
| r | u | sh |   |   |   |   |

shop  
ship  
shin  
din  
dish  
dash  
lash  
flash  
flush  
blush  
lush  
mush  
rush  
rash  
mash  
smash  
sash  
cash  
clash  
crash  
crush  
rush  
gush  
gash  
rash  
crash  
clash

|    |    |    |   |   |   |   |
|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|
| m  | s  | p  | a | c | t | i |
| b  | n  | o  | l | r | u |   |
| ck | sh | ch |   |   |   |   |

chop  
chip  
rip  
rich  
rick  
rock  
shock  
  
such  
much  
munch  
punch  
lunch  
bunch  
brunch  
crunch  
  
chick  
chin  
chip  
chop  
chap  
chat

## Sound Swap explained

**Milo's Sound Swap Word Game** offers a framework for explicit teaching to optimise children's literacy learning. It ensures that children make the connection between two literacy areas: spelling and reading.

Children can have a good grasp of individual letter-sound correspondences without understanding how the sounds and letters work together to make words. By combining the phonemic awareness skill of sound manipulation with letter recognition, **Sound Swap** provides an interactive activity that gives children a firm foundation for literacy learning. The word chains listed in **Sound Swap** cover the 44 sounds of the English alphabet in seven sequential stages.

**Sound Swap** is multi-sensory and engaging for children as they touch and manipulate letter cards to make words. Make sure that the letter cards children need are in view so they feel confident making choices. Sometimes children find handwriting difficult and it can distract from the literacy outcomes; **Sound Swap** focuses on the skill of manipulating sounds/letters without handwriting.

You can introduce **Sound Swap** when children have begun to grasp the alphabetic principle that sounds in speech can be linked to letters and letter combinations. When children understand how the principle works with the first eight letters introduced in the Little Learners Love Literacy® Stage 1 – **m, s, f, a, p, t, c, i** – they can start making their first word chain.

Once children are confident with Stage 1 letters and sounds, it is important to introduce the Little Learner books so that they can practise reading these words in a story. This builds confidence and encourages children to use decoding as a reliable reading strategy. The Little Learner books are carefully sequenced to the stages of the Little Learners Love Literacy® program.

**Sound Swap** has the following 49 letter cards. These letter cards represent the 44 sounds of the English alphabet.

|         |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |   |
|---------|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| Stage 1 | m | s | f | a  | p | t | c | i |
| Stage 2 | b | h | n | o  | d | g | l | v |
| Stage 3 | y | r | e | qu | z |   |   |   |
| Stage 4 | j | u | k | x  | w |   |   |   |

**Stage 5 Consonant blends/clusters:** two consonant letters together in a word, for example, **t-r-a-m, s-t-o-p, d-r-i-n-k, s-a-n-d**, with each letter sound heard. Children practise the sounds from stages 1, 2, 3 and 4.

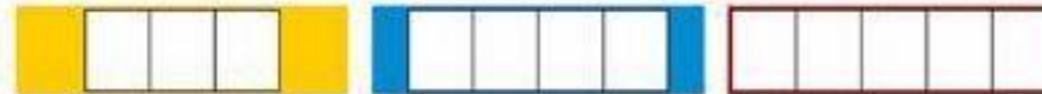
**Stage 6 Consonant digraphs:** two consonant letters together in a word, which represent one sound.

ck sh ch th ng

**Stage 7 Vowel digraphs:** two or more vowel letters which represent a vowel sound.



**Sound Swap** also includes three word cards on which letter cards are placed. Use the appropriate word card to match the longest word in the selected word list.



## Terminology explained

It's useful to clarify the meanings of some frequently used terms.

**Alphabetic principle:** the understanding that the sounds in speech can be represented by letters and letter combinations.

**Blending:** combining individual sounds together to form words.

**Consonant blends/clusters:** two adjacent consonant letters in a word, each consonant retaining its sound, for example, *tram*, *send*, *plain*.

**Digraphs:** two letters that represent one sound, for example, *ck* in *back*, *ow* in *show*.

**Letter cards:** **Sound Swap** has 49 colour-coded letter cards in seven stages.

**Phoneme:** the smallest unit of sound in a word. It is generally accepted that most varieties of spoken English use about 44 phonemes. In **Sound Swap** we use the term *sounds* rather than the more formal term *phonemes*. Changing the phoneme changes the meaning of the word, for example changing /a/ to /i/ in *dog* to *dig*. Note that in **Sound Swap** we use letters in slashes to represent sounds.

**Phonemic awareness:** the understanding that spoken words are made up of a series of discrete sounds. It is also the ability to break down, manipulate and blend sounds. Phonemic awareness is a strong indicator of a child's reading potential and underpins the effectiveness of phonics teaching.

**Phonics:** the relationship between sounds and letters. An understanding of phonics helps children understand the alphabetic principle.

**Schwa:** an unstressed vowel sound which is close to /u/ as in the sound at the end of the word *mother*.

