7 Spooooky Sounding Out Games!

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CONFIDENCE AROUND READING ANXIETY

Haunted House Sound Scare

1. Pick one room or area in your home where your child gets to set up their very own haunted house!
2. Have fun gathering all the supplies they need - flashlights, fake spiderwebs, googly eyes, peeled grapes, ketchup, red jello. The possibilities are endless!
3. Your child gets to set up the haunted house on their own, the only rule is they have to hide 5-7 letters somewhere in the haunted house
4. Once they're ready, your child gets to give you a tour of their haunted house, except instead of ghouls and goblins jumping out at you it has to be letters!
5. When your child gets to a hidden letter, they jump scare you by having it pop out and shouting its sound! "A says aaaaaaaaah! Run for your life!!"

Creepy Crawly Graveyard Reading

1. Fill a tray or baking sheet with crushed Oreo's for dirt
2. Stick Scrabble tiles or small letter flashcards in the dirt as "gravestones"
3. Start with a short 3 letter word and build up by adding or changing out "gravestones" (lap -> slap -> slip -> flip, etc)
4. Your child's job is to read the words - they get to drag a gummy worm across the dirt in front of the gravestones as they blend the sounds!
5. Do 5-10 words in a row, then eat the worms! Eeeew but YUM!

Sounding Out Skeleton Build

1. Grab skeleton supplies: black construction paper, glue, and a bunch of Q-tips!
2. Write a word for your child to sound out on a whiteboard or separate piece of paper (make sure it plays phonetically fair!)
3. For every letter in the word, your child earns one Q-tip. Watch how this inspires them to want "challenge words" that are even longer!
4. Once they've collected as many Q-tips as they want (or after 5-10 words), your child gets to glue them into their own awesome skeleton on the black construction paper! (Google "Q-tip Skeleton" for inspiration!)

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Zombie Spelling Stomp 

1. You and your child each pick a starting spot in a (somewhat clear) area of your home. Your child is the zombie, and you're the human!
2. The human (you!) says a sight word to spell. The zombie (your child) has to spell the word out loud while "zombie stomping" (straight arms, straight legs!) towards you!
3. The zombie can only move when it's spelling, you can only jump to a new spot when you're saying the new sight word. You have to stop moving the minute the zombie starts spelling!
4. Play until the zombie catches you!
5. For extra fun, switch!

Pumpkin Seed Sound Out Flick 

1. Clean and cook your jack-o-lantern's pumpkin seeds - or opt for store bought pepitas! Yum!
2. Have your child sit at the kitchen table and set up a small "goal" across from them - a small box on its side works great or try your trick-or-treating bucket!
3. Write words on a whiteboard and have your child sound them out to earn seeds
4. For every word your child reads, they get a seed to try to flick into the goal. Keep going until you've done 10 words or your child has made a goal. Score!

Spooky Sounding Out In The Dark 

1. Pick a book of child-friendly scary stories and get cozy together in a blanket fort or on their bed
2. Turn out the lights and use a flashlight to see the words on the page
3. You read the scary stories to them, but every once in a while, when you come to a word that you think they can sound out say "Can you help me with this one?" or "Your turn"
4. Use the flashlight and your finger to point to words that your child can "help" you with! This is a fun, no-pressure way for your child to see that they *can* sound out words in this book while still getting to enjoy you reading the story to them!

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Candy Haul Tic-Tac-Toe 🍬

1. First, have fun together sorting your child's Halloween candy into categories: chocolate, fruity, sour! You'll want at least 6 of each category
2. Decide who will be which candy. Will you play Reese's vs Skittles or something else? The match ups are endless!
3. Set up a tic-tac-toe board on a small whiteboard or piece of paper. Write one sight word or letter in each space. When it's your turn, you have to read the word or say the sound to go in your desired space
4. Whoever gets 3 in a row first wins. Then set up a new board, pick a new candy match up and play again. Rematch!

Remember, there are 3 keys 🔑 to help your struggling reader:

Let it be SIMPLE
Let it be EASY
Let it be FUN! 💗

You've got this!

Cheering you on!

xo,

Cara

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