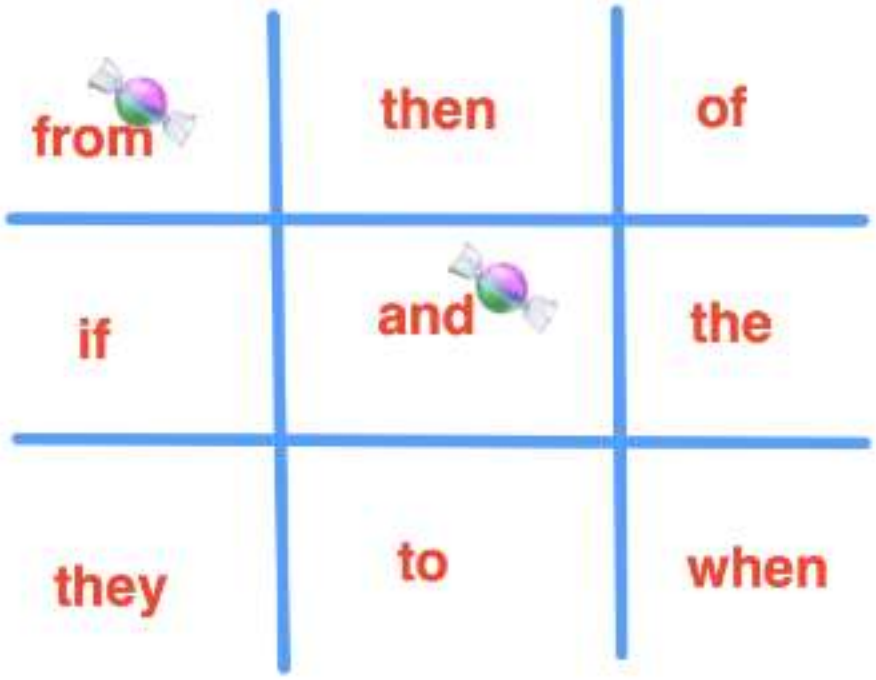
Winter Wonderland Tic-Tac-Toe

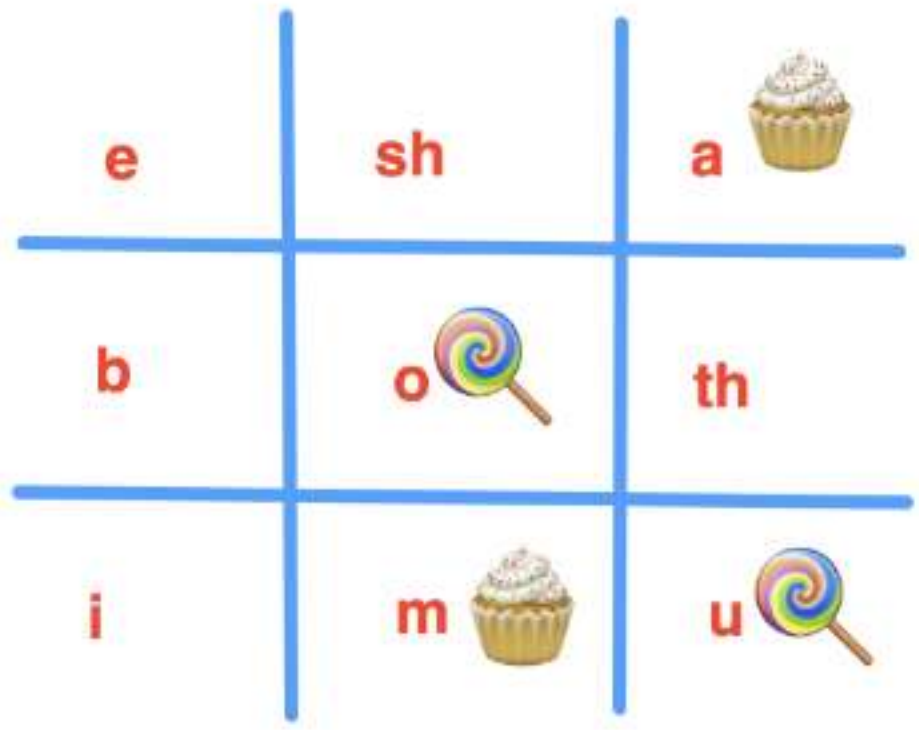


Materials

- Small whiteboard or blank paper
- Expo markers or Sharpie
- Mini marshmallows, Hershey's kisses, Hanukkah gelt, or other candy of your choosing

Ready, Set, Play!

1. **Draw a large tic-tac-toe board** or let your child draw it
2. **Fill each space with letters or sight words** or prefixes/suffixes your child is practicing
3. **Decide who will be each candy** instead of Xs and Os play mini marshmallows vs chocolate kisses!
4. **Play!** Say the sound the letter makes or read the word to go on your space. Cover it with your candy. Repeat!
5. **And play again!** Erase your whiteboard or grab a new piece of paper, fill your board in with new letters/words, pour some hot cocoa, and play again. Rematch!



Super Snuggly Sounding Out



Materials

- Winter pajamas
- A super fuzzy blanket or pillow
- Your finger!
- Favorite winter break movie

Ready, Set, Play!

1. **Get cozy on the couch** if you're not already there ;)

2. **Hold your child's pointer finger in yours and trace letters of a word onto the fuzzy blanket or pillow** Or, for added feedback, trace the letters onto your child's lap or palm. Be sure to say the letter names as you go! You can do this with just one letter if that matches where your child is in the reading process

3. **Have your child repeat and trace the letters one more time** "g–i-f-t"

4. **See if your child can sound out the invisible word!** Hint: start with short words and give quick help to minimize frustration. If it's just one letter, have your child say the sound the letter makes

5. **After 5 to 10 words or letters, press play on your favorite holiday movie!** Or let your child take a turn spelling words for *you* to sound out before watching

6. **Snuggle and feel proud!**

Sweet Treat Recipe Reading 🧁



Ready, Set, Play!

1. **Let your child choose a recipe** and print it out

2. **Have your child highlight or underline the words they don't know or need help with** any words they feel uncertain about should be underlined, even if you think they know them!

3. **Sound out the highlighted or underlined words together** Just tell your child what a word says if it's long or doesn't play phonetically fair

4. **Have your child read the whole recipe to you outloud** quickly jump in to help if they need it!

5. **Celebrate them (woohoo you did it!!) and bake!** Have fun, eat and enjoy. YUM!

Materials

- Any recipe of your child's choosing
- Highlighter or colored pen
- Ingredients the recipe calls for

Spelling in the (fake) Snow! ☃️



Materials

- Small tray or baking sheet
- Flour, salt, and/or shredded coconut
- Your child's finger!

Ready, Set, Play!

1. **Fill your tray or baking sheet with flour, salt, or shredded coconut to create fake 'snow'** Add mini marshmallows or glitter for extra fun!

2. **Give your child time to experience the texture** before spelling. Ooh!

3. **Say a word out loud** Keep it simple and enunciate the sounds! Go slowly "soft - s-o-f-t". You can also give just one letter sound if that matches where your child is

4. **Spell! Have your child use their finger to write the letters in the snow** Gently help if they need it. You're working together!

5. **Smooth out the snow, and repeat with another word or letter** Zamboni time!

6. **After 5 spellings, let them play in the snow!** Draw swirly patterns, finger flick mini marshmallows, or better yet, if it's actually snowing, do this whole process outside!



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Cozy Couch Reading 📖 🤓



Materials

- Winter pajamas
- Favorite blanket, pillow, stuffy, or pet
- A variety of books
- Mini candy canes or other long-lasting sweet treat + one wrapped candy cane

Ready, Set, Play!

1. **Get cozy on the couch together** the more snuggly the better!

2. **Give out candy canes or other sweet treat** Reading lasts as long as the candy does, but doesn't have to go longer than that. This helps your child know what to expect. Just one rule: no reading with candy in your mouth :)

3. **Choose a format that feels good:**
    a. You read aloud
    b. Your child reads aloud
    c. Take turns reading aloud
    d. You each read your own book on the couch together

4. **Read and use a (wrapped) candy cane for tracking** When you read, point to a "candy cane word": your child has to help you read that word! When they read, let them slide the candy cane under the words to keep their place

5. **Be together, read, and enjoy!** When the candy canes are done, you can stop - but I wouldn't be surprised if there's a request to keep going!