

The ACTIONS TRICK

Objective

- To develop multi-sensory (kinaesthetic–auditory–oral–visual) memory cues for letter sounds.

Teaching point

Accompanying learning sounds with learning actions creates greater involvement and attention to each sound, and is always popular.

Explain to the children that each Letterlander has given us an action to help us remember their letter sound. To begin with, encourage children to *make the sound each time they make the action*, so that the action and sound become firmly associated. Later on you could try using the actions in various activities. For example:

- A child makes an action and the rest of the class say the corresponding sound.
- Children play an Actions Game (page 252) where they make each action in alphabetical order.
- Some children spell a word using actions only. The others convert the actions into sounds to build the word.

The TRICKS

The actions are designed to be performed either sitting or standing. Where relevant, children should be facing in the Reading Direction.



a Bite an imaginary apple.



b Shoot arms up for ears and wiggle them.



c Stroke whiskers across cheeks.



d Flap elbows like a waddling duck.



e Spread out hands behind ears and flap like elephant ears.



f Hold and direct imaginary hose towards fire.



g Mime holding tipped glass of grape juice in 'glug, glug' position.



h Breathe on to hand in front of mouth, OR put on imaginary hat.



i Touch fingers to thumb on the same hand as if sticky with ink and make an 'icky' face.



j Juggle imaginary balls.



k Lift one arm and one foot in a k-shape. If sitting, use arms only.



l Touch finger tips above head to suggest Lucy's lampshade hat.



m Rub tummy.



n Bang one fist on the other, as if hammering a nail.



o Form round-shapes with both mouth and hand and adopt a surprised look.



p Stroke down long imaginary ears.



q Point index finger up as if ordering 'Quiet!', while saying 'qu...'



r Make a running movement with arms.



s Make snake movements with hand and arm.



t Lift arms horizontally at shoulder height in t-shape.



u Hold up imaginary umbrella with one hand low and the other above the head.



v Hold hands together in v-shape.



w Flick both hands up and away as if splashing water, ending with arms in a w-shape.



x Cross arms on chest in x-shape.



y Move hand up and down as if controlling a yo-yo.



z Tilt head and rest against hands to mime falling asleep.

Long vowel action

Each Vowel Man punches the air with his right hand as he calls out his name enthusiastically.

