# Themed Activities: S is for Summer

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A seasonal approach to recognising initial phonemes

## Learning Objective

To explore initial phonemes through a summer theme.

## Starting Points

- In role as the Summer Sun Queen, tell the children that everything you own begins with a special letter. Ask the children to sit quietly as you produce objects that begin with the letter 'S' – sunglasses, sandals, seaweed etc. Ask the children to whisper the letter, shout the letter, sing the letter and draw the letter in the air.
- Ask the children to sit in a circle and give the first child a plastic letter 'S'. The child then says a word beginning with 'S' and passes it onto the next person.
- Play the above game but this time the children pass the 'S' to music. When the music stops the childe things of two 'S' words that go together, such as silly sandals, silver sunglasses etc.

## Make

- Use chalk pastels to create giant summer pictures and display with a variety of 'S' words.
- Ask children to create sun pictures by trickling PVA glue in the shape of the sun onto white calico. When dry, paint with fabric paint. Use threads and sequins to add texture to the finished piece of artwork.

## Activities

- Play 'Summer Sounds'. Make a set of large laminated suns and a set of picture cards, some beginning with 'S' and some beginning with other letters. Ask each child to pick a card and if it begins with 'S' they write an 'S' on one of the sun's rays. If it is not an 'S' they put it back on the table.
- Play 'Summer Sun'. Make a set of cards with the letter 'S' on one side and a picture of an object starting with 'S' on the other. Place the cards around the classroom, hall or outside area. In small groups the children search for the suns, and when they find one they write the 'S' word on a whiteboard.
- Play 'Search for the Sun'. Make a set of sunrays with pictures beginning with 'S' on the back. Place the rays around the classroom, hall or outside area. In small groups the children search for the sunrays and when they find a ray they write the 'S' word on the ray. Then they take the ray back to the classroom and begin to make a sun (a large yellow circle needs to be made and left on the table as a starting point). They continue to search for sunrays until a complete sun has been made (approximately eight rays).

## Develop and Extend

**ICT:** In pairs or small groups the children decide where in the school they could find evidence of summer. For examples, salvias, children wearing sandals, etc. Use the digital camera to take pictures for the display.

**Drama:** In small groups the children make the letter 'S' using their bodies. They could do this individually, in pairs or in small groups. Other letters can also be introduced.

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Adapted from:

Belair On Display - Hands on Literacy

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