

# Teaching ideas

## Printable Animal Masks

### Phonics learning opportunities

To distinguish between the differences in vocal sounds.  
To talk about the different sounds that we can make with our voices.

### Teaching ideas

Give children the masks and let them explore making animal movements and sounds.

For more information see Letters and Sounds p40.

### Shaking things up

Ask children to experiment with showing different emotions as these animals. e.g.

"What noise would an angry/sad/excited cow make?"

Encourage role play to explore the sounds that animals might make whilst doing different things. e.g. Being fed, playing with string, going for a walk, curling up on the sofa.

Ask one child to make a sound that their animal would make. Ask the other children to listen to the sound and talk about it. e.g.

"Is the sound loud or quiet?"

"Is the sound high or low?"

"Is the sound long or short?"

Ask several children to close their eyes and help them to put masks on (without letting them see which animal their mask shows). Encourage other children to treat the masked children as if they are the animals that the masks show. Allow the children to move around the room and see if they can work out which animal they are by the way other children respond to them. Can they start behaving like this animal and making the sounds that this animal makes?

Read books that involve the animals shown on the masks. Discuss how children can add sounds to these stories using their voices. Encourage children to act out these stories, make the appropriate sounds and play at being the characters in these books while wearing the masks.

