



## SECTION 12: THE m SOUND (m as in mouse)

### ACTIVITIES

Listen to the CD and ask the children if they can guess the following sounds:

- A mouse
- A motorbike
- A monster

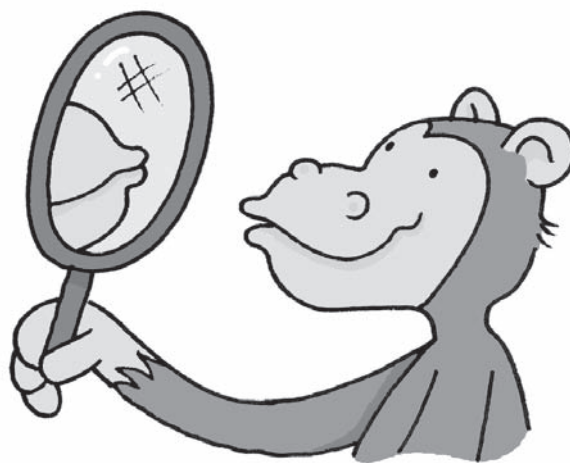
■ Play an action game: an adult whispers an action to the child, remembering to emphasise the **m** sound. The child then has to act it out. Other children then try to guess the action. This is difficult, so give help and clues, so that the child is successful. For example, actions could include:

- **March** up and down.
- **Mend** a hole in your clothes.
- Put on **make-up**.
- **Munch** a biscuit.
- **Mop** the floor.

■ Look for story books which begin with the **m** sound and read them aloud to your class. For example:

*Meg and Mog Stories* by Helen Nicoll and Jan Pienkowski (Puffin Books)  
*The Little Mermaid* by Hans Christian Andersen (Dover Publications)  
*The Book about Moomin, Mymble and Little My* by Tove Jansson and Sophie Hannah (Sort Of Books UK)  
*The Mousehole Cat* by Antonia Barber and Nicola Bayley (Walker Books Ltd)  
*Mister Magnolia* by Quentin Blake (Red Fox)

- Look for non-fiction books in the library. You can find books about cows and milk, mountains, moths, making masks, and the moon.
- Find children's names beginning with the **m** sound, such as Mark, Matthew, Michael, Mohammed, Margaret, Mollie, Melissa, Muna, Meir.
- Use pictures from magazines and catalogues of things beginning with the **m** sound.
- Give the children **magnets**. Ask them to walk around their environment trying to lift things with them. Ask them the following questions: *What does the magnet lift up? Do you have fridge magnets in your house? Why do they stick on the fridge?*
- Ask the children if they can find **milk, mushrooms, melons, mustard, meat, marmalade** in the shops. Find out all the foods you can make



from milk and if possible try them (for example, cheese, yoghurt, curds, cream, butter). (Make sure you are aware of any of allergies before doing this.)

- Grow **mung** bean sprouts and eat them.

### EVALUATION

- These questions are intended to assess the children's ability to hear the **m** sound. Ask them to rub the outside part of their ears before they start to listen.
- Read the following questions to the children:
  1. What sound is at the beginning of these words?  
man, mend, mop, melon, mud, marmalade, money, mitten
  2. In these groups of three words, which word begins with the **m** sound?
    - a) mummy, cat, bird
    - b) ban, can, man
    - c) head, moon, beach
    - d) mermaid, pig, house
    - e) hill, down, monkey
    - f) rattle, leg, mirror
  3. Clap when you hear a word with the **m** sound at the beginning:  
mother, map, mitten, dog, milk, magic, mountain, lip, market

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- As a further challenge for children you can try 'Robot talk'. A list of suggested words is given below.
  - The adult says the word such as 'mat' and then says it in 'Robot talk' /m/a/t/, sounding out the individual sounds. Then repeat this.
  - The child then says the word, for example 'mat'.