

Sunny Snakes and Yummy Yogurt! (Sounds of S and Y)

Materials: Whiteboard or large paper, Markers or crayons, Letter cards for 'S', 's', 'Y', 'y', Pictures or small objects starting with 's' (e.g., snake, sun, sock, star, soap, six), Pictures or small objects starting with 'y' (e.g., yogurt, yarn, yo-yo, yak, yellow crayon, yes sign), A small bag or box ('Sound Sack'), Optional: Playdough, sand tray, craft supplies (yarn, construction paper).

Introduction (5-7 minutes)

- **Sing a Song:** Use a simple tune like 'Twinkle Twinkle': "Letters make sounds, oh yes they do! Today we'll learn sounds, me and you! S says /s/ /s/ /s/, Y says /j/ /j/ /j/, Let's find them now, hooray, hooray!" (Sing it a couple of times, encouraging the child to make the sounds with you).
- **Introduce Letters:** Show the letter cards 'S' and 's'. Say: "This is the letter S! Big S and little s. They both make the /s/ sound, like a sneaky snake! Can you make the sound with me? Slide your hand like a snake and say Ssssss."
- **Introduce Letter Y:** Show the letter cards 'Y' and 'y'. Say: "This is the letter Y! Big Y and little y. They make the /j/ sound, like when you say 'yes!' or 'yummy yogurt!' Can you make the sound? Nod your head for 'yes' and say Yuh, yuh, yes!"

Main Lesson (15-20 minutes)

- **Sound Sort Game:** Place the 'S' and 'Y' letter cards apart on the floor or table. Take out the pictures/objects one by one. Pick up the picture of a sun. Ask: "What is this? A sun! Does 'sun' start with the sssss sound like snake, or the yuh-yuh sound like yes?" Exaggerate the beginning sound. Guide the child to say "Sssssun" and place it near the 'S' card. Repeat with other 's' and 'y' items (sock, star, yogurt, yarn, yo-yo etc.), helping the child say the word and identify the starting sound.
- **Sound Sack Fun:** Put 3-4 's' items and 3-4 'y' items inside the bag or box. Let the child reach in without looking, feel one item, and guess what it is. Have them pull it out and say the name of the object (e.g., "Yarn!"). Then ask, "Does yarn start with /s/ or /j/?" Have them place it near the correct letter card. Continue until the bag is empty.
- **Action Sounds & Movement Break:** Make it physical! Say: "Let's be super speedy! Run in place super fast and make the /s/ sound: Sssssssss!" Then say: "Now let's do big yawns because we are sleepy! Stretch and make the /j/ sound: Yuh, yuh, yawn!" Repeat a few times.
- **Optional Sensory Play:** If using, help the child form the letter 's' by rolling playdough into a snake shape. Use pieces of yarn to form the letter 'y'. Alternatively, practice tracing 's' and 'y' with a finger in a shallow tray of sand or salt while making the letter sound.

Closure (3-5 minutes)

- **Quick Review Chant:** Point to the 'S' card and the items. Chant: "S says /s/, S says /s/, Sun and sock and star say /s/!" Point to the 'Y' card and items. Chant: "Y says /j/, Y says /j/, Yarn and yogurt yes say /j/!"
- **Sound Hunt:** Ask: "Can you look around our room really quickly and point to something that starts with the /s/ sound?" (Wait for response). "Great! Now, can you find something that starts with the /j/ sound? Maybe something yellow? Or point to yourself and say 'you!'"
- **Positive Praise:** Give specific praise: "You did such a super (/s/) job learning the sounds for S and Y today! Yes (/j/) you did! You were a sound superstar!" Give a high-five.