



Spelling Noughts and Crosses for 1-4 children

Materials: 2 small wipe off white boards, board pens, a board rubber, a dice if you only have 1 child to play.

1. Prepare a secret list of 9 relevant words to spell and number them. Make the hardest one number 5 (middle square) and tell the children that this one is more of a challenge. Try to link words with the lesson.
2. Draw the noughts and crosses 9 square grid on a little whiteboard.
3. Number each square 1 – 9.
4. Use another whiteboard for the spelling work. If you have been teaching a particular sound with variation ie <a/ay/ai/>, write all variations at the top of the board to encourage choice and more than one attempt before choosing a final answer.
5. Children, or pairs of children, take it in turn to tactically choose a square and try to spell and write down the word you have on your list. Encourage all good phonic techniques: segmenting, chunking, trying variations etc.
6. If they spell it correctly, they win the square and can put in their nought or cross.

For one child...

You are the partner, but you have to throw an even number on a dice to win the square, or toss a coin and tell them that you win your square if it lands on “heads”.

Variations..

Use for reading skills – they have to decode/read a certain word to win the square. Good to practise multi-syllable work or unfamiliar words with a target sound in them.

Use for early learners to practise oral segmenting. The word simply has to be sounded out correctly to win the square. You can move on to writing it down as they improve.