

This week, we are going to play another Nursery favourite – Tony the Train. It's great for exploring letter sounds and finding out about alliteration. If you don't have a toy train, you could change it to 'Carl the Car' or 'Bertha the Bus'. Here's a video to show you how to play the game:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8zBsQkJo1-k>



Choose some objects beginning with your chosen letter sound. In the video, the focus is on letter 's' but we have also learned letters a, t, p, i and n so you could choose any of those.

Make up a story together about the train like this:

*It was going to be a busy day for Tony. He had lots to do before bedtime. So many packages to deliver and so many passengers to carry. He set out very early, leaving all the other engines at the station, and hurried off down the track, clackety clack down the track, clackety clack down the track... But he hadn't gone very far when...!!! He saw something up ahead lying on the tracks. 'Oh no!' yelled Tony. 'I must s – t – o – p.' And he did stop, just in time. To Tony's surprise, there on the track lay a slippery, slithery snake fast asleep. 'I had better warn the others,' thought Tony and so he hurried back to the station, clackety clack going back, clackety clack going back. Tony arrived at the station quite out of puff. 'Whatever is the matter?' said the other engines. 'Toot, toot, mind the...slippery, slithery snake' panted Tony. 'He's fast asleep on the track.' 'Thank you,' said the others, 'We certainly will.'*

Continue with the other objects and encourage your child to join in with saying the growing list of objects. For example: 'Tony the train found a sssnake, a ssspider, a sssun and a sssnail'. Remember to give emphasis to the initial sound.

Have fun playing the game and making up adventures for Tony the train.