Segmenting Bead Slide

Main purpose - To develop children's awareness of segmenting.

The bead slide is one of my favorite tools to use when teaching the phonemic awareness skill of phoneme segmentation. They are so simple to make and use and are really effective to help the children identify the individual sounds.

To make a Bead Slide, take a thick shoe lace and cut it into shorter lengths (approximately 15cm) and 6 bright coloured beads with a small threading hole - so the beads can be moved, but don't slide by themselves! Tie a knot at one end of the lace, thread the beads on to it and then tie a knot at the other end. Now you have your Bead Slide...

To use the Bead Slide explain to the children that they are going to slide a bead for each phoneme (sound) they hear in a word. For example, cat has 3 phonemes (c-a-t) so they will slide 3 beads. Some words are trickier, like train which has 4 phonemes (t-r-a-i-n), but 5 letters, so they will slide 4 beads.