

Phase 1 Phonics Overview for Parents

Why Teach Phonics?

Helps children develop good reading and spelling skills

Builds confidence

Improves fluency

Vital skill to pave the way for an enjoyable and successful school experience

What is Phase 1?

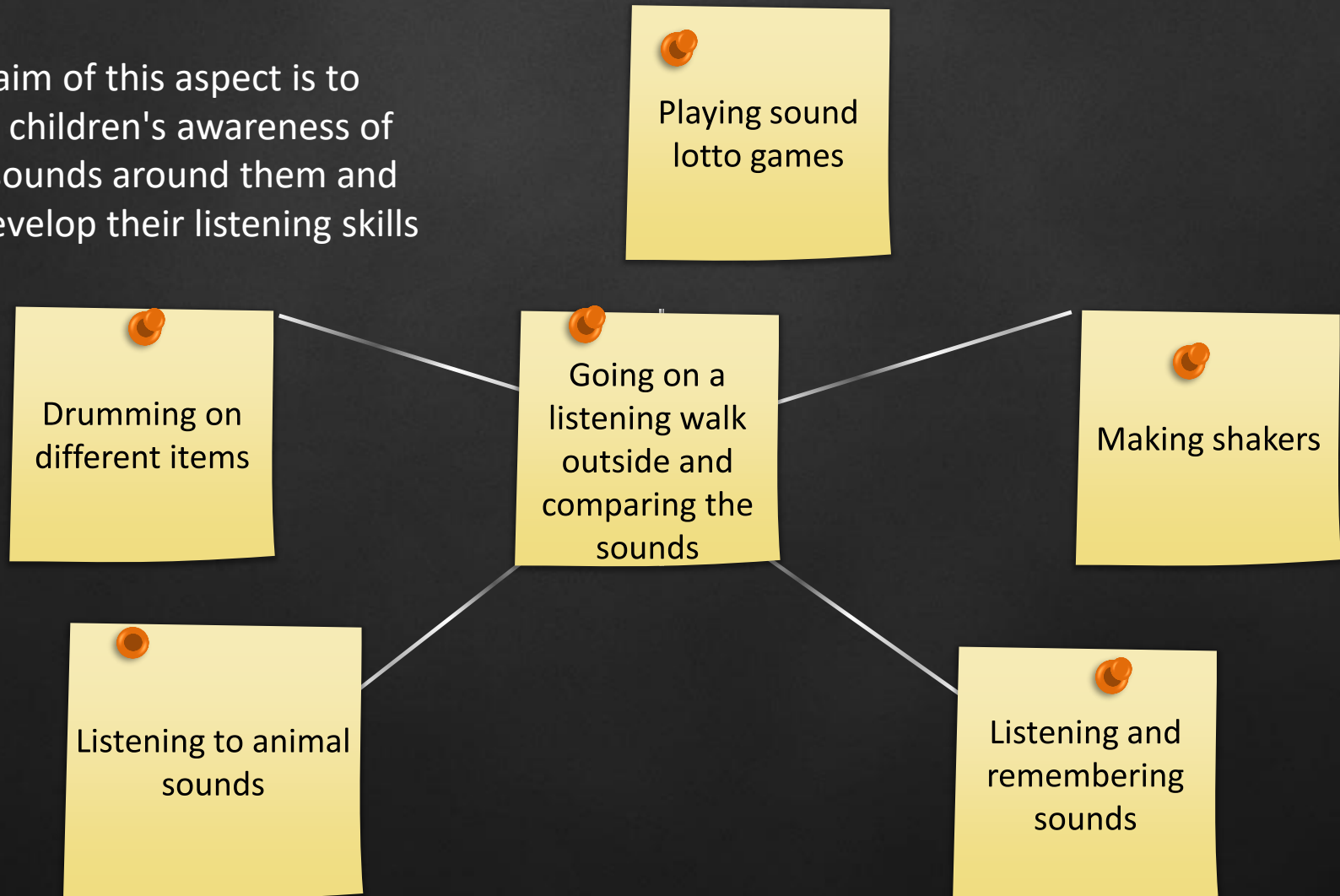
- Phase 1 in Phonics is not about learning the sounds with flashcards it is about getting ready to learn the sounds. It is primarily speaking and listening activities.
- Phase 1 concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the next phases. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills.
- Being secure in Phase 1 is vital to future success in phonics.
- It is split into 7 aspects which we will go through.



It is really good fun!

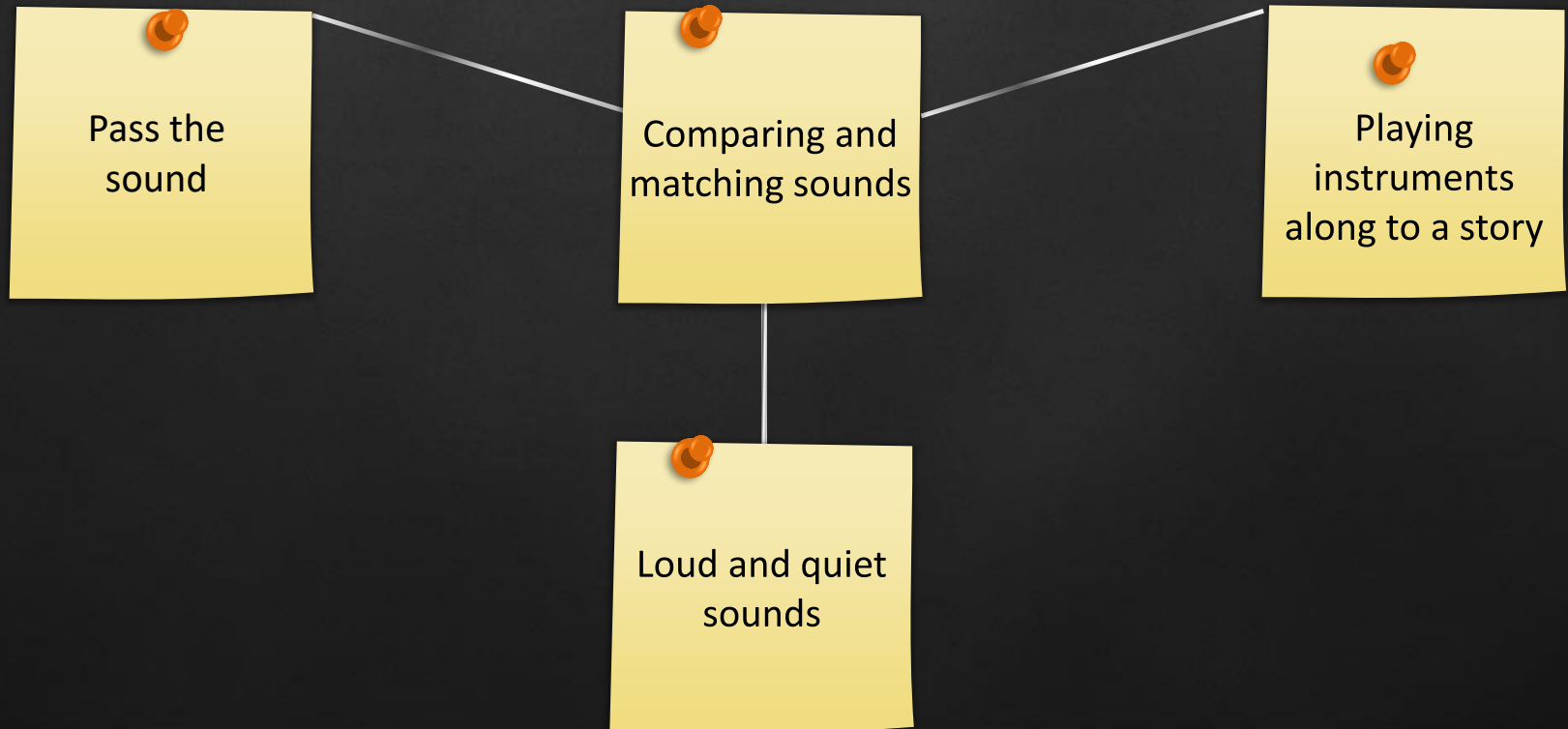
Aspect 1 General sound discrimination – environmental

The aim of this aspect is to raise children's awareness of the sounds around them and to develop their listening skills



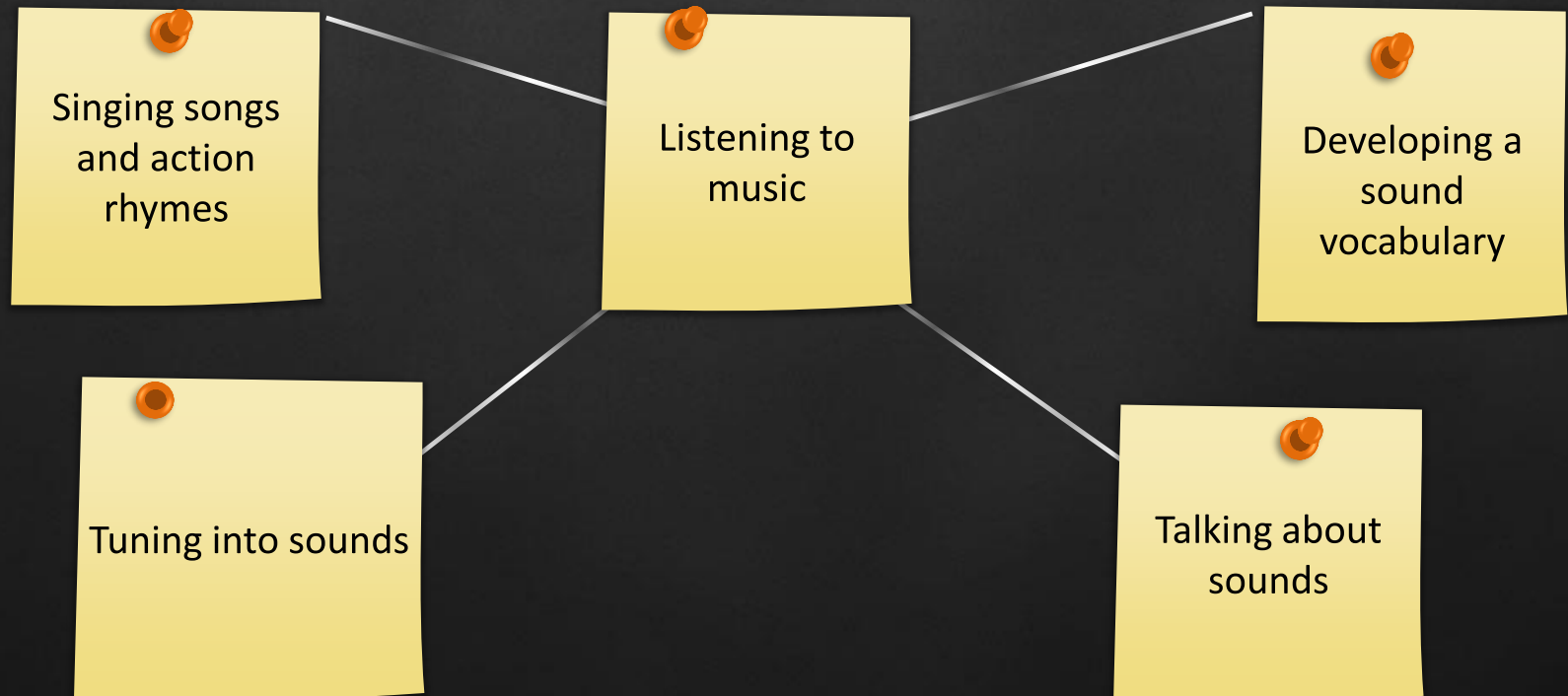
Aspect 2 General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds

This aspect aims to develop children's awareness of sounds made by various instruments and noise makers.



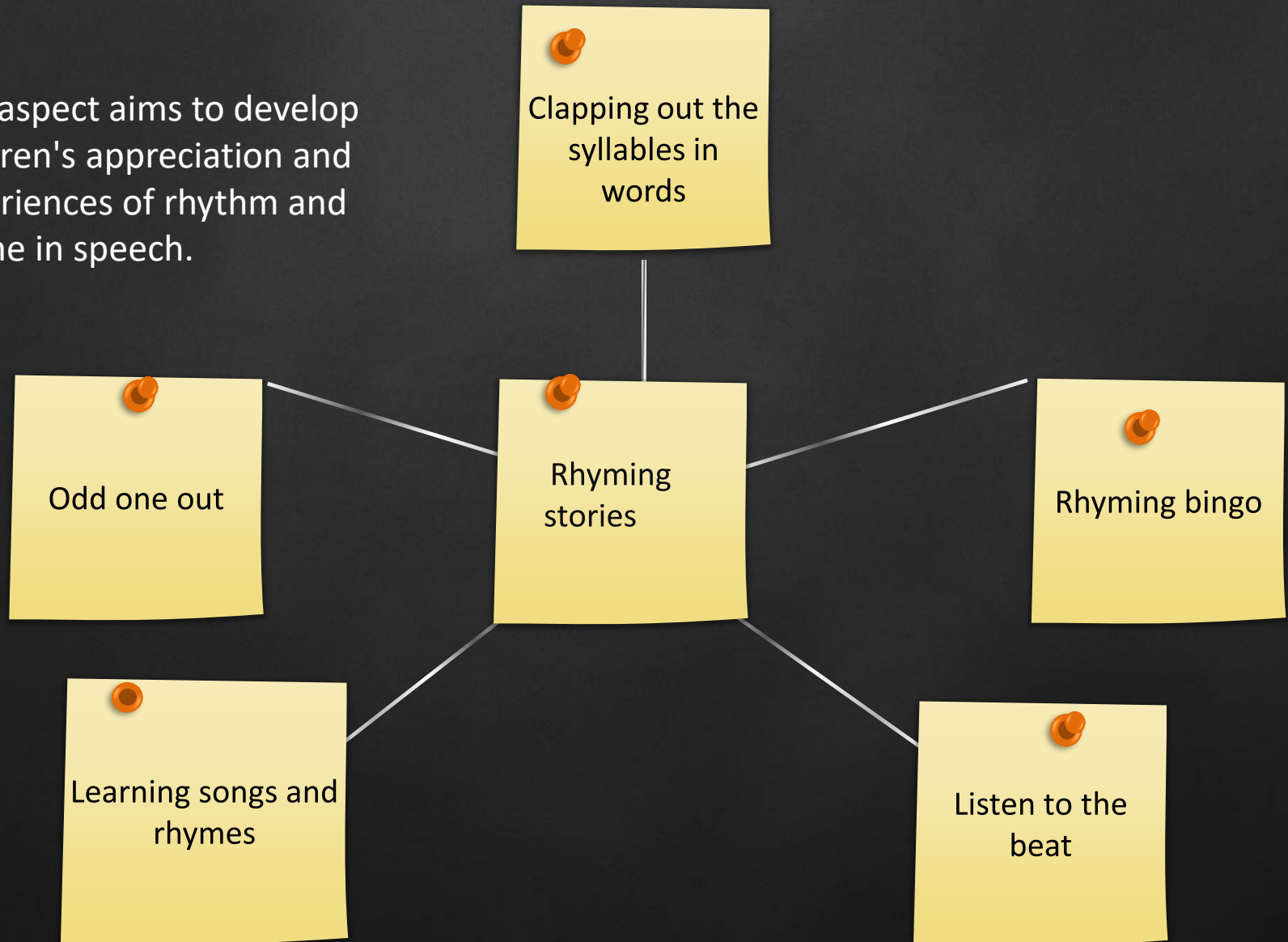
Aspect 3 General sound discrimination – body percussion

The aim of this aspect is to develop children's awareness of sounds and rhythms.



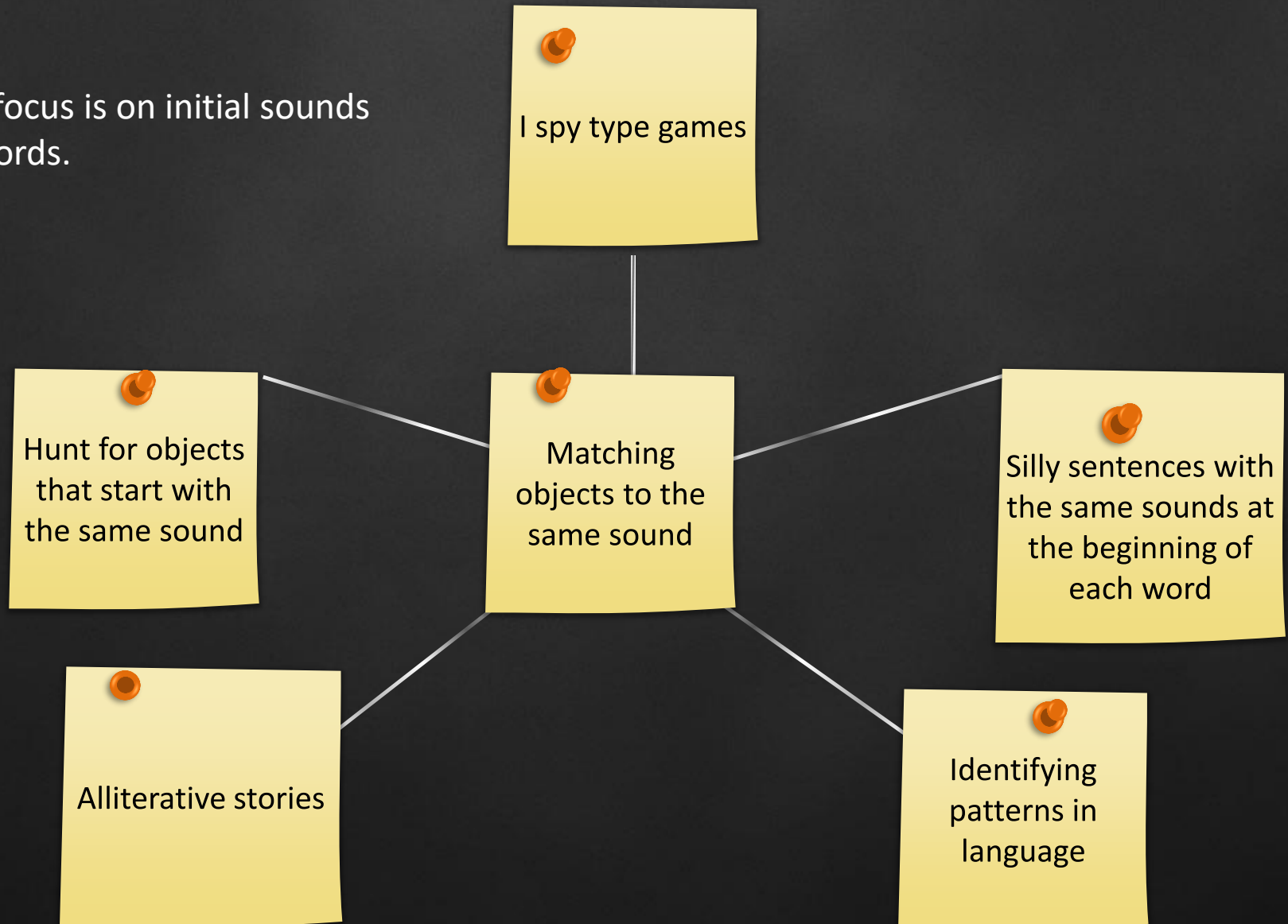
Aspect 4 Rhythm and Rhyme

This aspect aims to develop children's appreciation and experiences of rhythm and rhyme in speech.



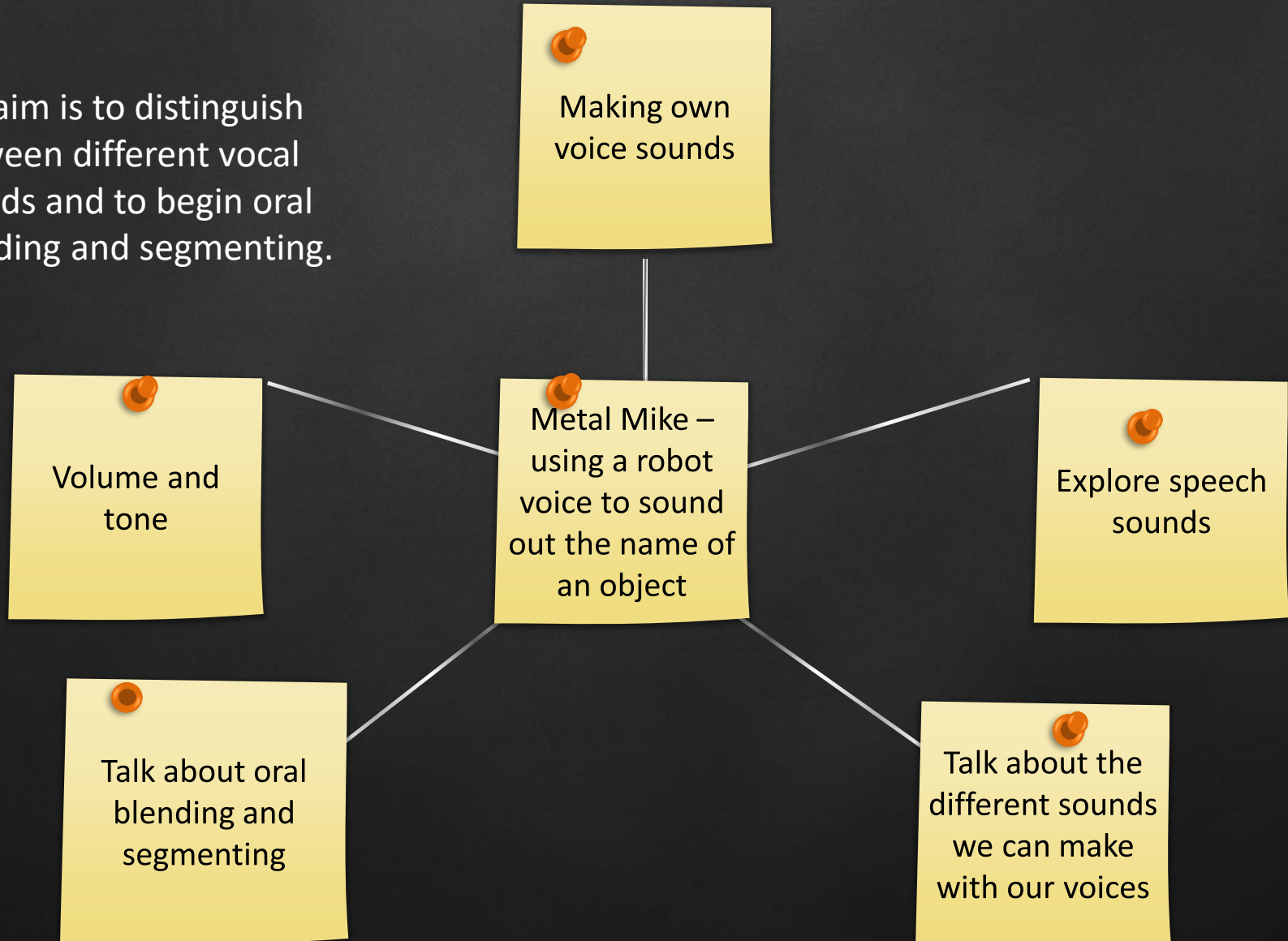
Aspect 5 Alliteration

The focus is on initial sounds of words.



Aspect 6 Voice sounds

The aim is to distinguish between different vocal sounds and to begin oral blending and segmenting.



Aspect 7 – Oral Blending and segmenting

- Oral blending (ready to read) & segmenting (ready to write).
- In this aspect, the main aim is to develop oral blending and segmenting skills.
- To practise oral blending, the teacher could say some sounds, such as /c/-/u/-/p/ and see whether the children can pick out a cup from a group of objects. For segmenting practise, the teacher could hold up an object such as a sock and ask the children which sounds they can hear in the word sock.
- [Importance of saying sounds correctly](#)

Other ways I can help at home

Play 'I Spy' with the letter sounds not alphabet names

Sing lots of nursery rhymes

Choose stories that have alliteration

Play pairs with words and pictures

Play sound bingo games

Play party games such as 'Musical Statues'

Read lots of rhyming books

Rhyming cards

Play the Shopping bag game

Listen for sounds in the environment