

Phonological Awareness

Listen up!

WHAT IS PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS?

Learning to hear sounds in words prepares students to read and spell words. Phonological awareness is the ability to identify and manipulate speech sounds. Children start by being able to perceive larger units of sound (e.g., whole words) and gradually develop awareness of smaller units of sound (e.g., phonemes).

Phonological awareness encompasses awareness of:

- Rhyme: /cat/ and /hat/
- Syllables: /yes/ /ter/ /day/
- Onset-rime: /c/ /at/
- Phonemes: /c/ /a/ /t/

WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?

Phonemic awareness is a subset of phonological awareness. It is the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words.

Phonemes:

/d/ /o/ /g/ /ch/ /a/ /t/
/s/ /oa/ /p/ /w/ /a/ /t/ /er/



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Children need to connect the phonemes (sounds) in words to the letters that represent them to be able to read and write. It is important to teach phonemic awareness skills and to explicitly show children how letters represent sounds. So, don't just talk about sounds alone... use letters, too! That will help children make that connection from sounds to print.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT OF PHONOLOGICAL AND PHONEMIC AWARENESS?



WHAT ARE SOME ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE DONE AT HOME OR IN THE COMMUNITY?

I Spy	Use objects around your house and community and say, "I spy a /c/ /u/ /p/." What is it?"	Sound Hunt	Give children a sound to hunt for objects that start or end with that sound. They can look through a magazine for items, hunt around the home, or look in the neighborhood while walking or playing.
I'm thinking of...	"I'm thinking of a word that starts with the sound /p/ and and is on the stove. Yes, pot!"	Word Blender	Say a word broken up into its individual sounds. Press a "button" on the child,...have them spin like they are in a blender. When you press the "button" to stop, they say the word blended together,
Name Game	Use names! "You are Terrance, Terrance starts with /t/. Terrance is terrific. I am Patty. Patty starts with ..." Have the child fill in the pattern. Use pet names, characters, family members, friends, etc!	Cardio Counting	Give children a sentence. Count the words as you do jumping jacks for each word in the sentence!
Sound Race	Line up objects (or pictures of objects) on the ground. Have children stand at a "starting line." Call out a sound and have them race to pick up the object that starts or ends with the sound.	Syllable Shopping	As you shop together, have children clap or count the syllables in the items that you add to the cart.



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