

What is Phonemic Awareness?

Phonemes are the smallest unit of speech sounds that make up a language

Phonemic Awareness is the ability of a learner to listen and make these sounds

Phonemic Awareness is more than understanding the alphabet. It helps children to think carefully about words and the sounds that are in those words. Awareness of sounds in words helps children to read, write, and spell.



References:

The Reading Tree: www.aability.com/pagames.htm

Phonemic Awareness in Young Children, (Adams 1998)

Games to practice rhyming:

Rhyming helps children to pay attention to how words sound. Research shows that listening to rhyme and being playful with words through rhyme helps children to learn to read, write, and spell. Be sure to read lots of poetry, songs, and rhyming stories!

*Silly Mistakes



Read a familiar poem or story . . . but make any kind of Silly Mistake that will be obvious to your child. For example,

You might **replace a word with nonsense**:

Jack and Jill went up the *pickle*

or **say the words in the wrong order**:

The first little pig built a *straw of house*

or even **swap sounds**:

The clock struck one, The mouse ran down,
Dickory, Hickory, *Hock*



*The Ship is loaded with...

Takes turns putting rhyming things in the ship:

The ship is loaded with *cheese, peas, fleas, knees, etc*

The ship is loaded with *logs, dogs, frogs, etc.*

Games to practice sounds

Help children listen for sounds in words: beginning, ending and middle sounds

***I Spy Acronym Challenge**

Start with a person that you spy: James . Then, find words that have the same sounds as the word.

Jelly, Ape, Muffin, Sandwich (The words don't have to match the spelling just the sounds)

***Think of a Word**

Name words that begin or end with the same sound as the child's name

Say: "Richie is looking for things to put in his toy box. Can we help him?" Then, take turns naming things to go into the toy box.

Richie put a rabbit in his toy box.

Richie put a rainbow in his toy box.

Richie put a wrinkle . . .

Richie put a refrigerator . . .



***"You're outta here"**

Find the word that does not belong:

cat trumpet cookie plate mitt

Games to practice syllables

Find something in the room, in the kitchen, at the park, at the grocery store, in Home Depot, a restaurant. These games can be played on the go and anywhere!

Say its name, and help the child to clap out the syllables and say the word in pieces:"

snow	blow	er	(3 claps)
ham	mer		(2 claps)
wrench			(1 clap)

***Which Word is Longer? Clap and see!**

(This can be a tricky question for young children!)

Which is longer ma ga zine or ma ca ro ni?

***Say a Word Without a Syllable:**

Ask the child to say "paintbrush" without the "brush." Use a clap or funny sound to show where the missing syllable is.



***Mrs. Paghetti's Spaghetti**

Start by saying "Mrs Paghetti likes her spaghetti with _____ on top." Pick a word with a certain # of syllables. The next person repeats saying with the first topping, and then adds another topping with the same # of syllables.

