

Phonological Awareness

What is Phonological Awareness? Simply put, phonological awareness is the understanding that words are made up of different sounds, and those sounds can be manipulated or changed verbally. This can be done in either French or English! The skill is the same in both languages!!

Why are Phonological Awareness skills important? Phonological Awareness skills are the foundation to reading! A solid foundation is critical for a child's future success in reading and spelling. Therefore, a child who struggles with phonological awareness skills is more likely to struggle with reading and spelling.

Syllables (dividing words into parts)	Beginning Sounds (saying the first sound, not letter name, you hear)	Ending Sounds and Rhyming (saying the last sound, not letter name, you hear)	Blending Sounds (c+a+t= CAT)	Counting Sounds (BOAT= 3 sounds, b, Ō,t); Count sounds on fingers)	*Manipulate Sounds (change /c/ sound in cat to /m/ and you get MAT) *Most difficult of all skills
Chalk time! Draw 4 lines with chalk outside on the sidewalk or driveway. Hop the syllables in words!	Name Game! Each person in your family says their name and one food that starts with the same sound (ex. Sophie, Sandwich)	Rhyming with Dr. Seuss. Using a Dr. Seuss book, read it to your child. After each couplet, or 2lines, ask your child to tell you 2 words that rhyme (ex. cat & hat).	Robot Talk: Pretend you are a robot and say in robot voice the individual sounds of a 3 or 4 letter word. Have your child tell you the word!	Jumping Game: Say a short word (ex. dog, tug, mitt). Have your child jump forward for each sound he/she says in the word. Then, switch roles!	What's Missing Game: Say 2 words that have 1 letter difference (eat,meat). Ask your child to repeat the words and say which sound is missing (ex. /m/ in "eat")
Toy Time! Gather some toys! Count the syllables of each toy (ex. truck=1; lego=2; Monopoly=4) Sort the toys into piles of 1,2, 3,or 4 syllables!	Guess who, Animal Game? Say "I'm thinking of an animal that hops and starts with the sound /f/. Answer is FROG! Play for various animals.	Round the Table: Going around the dinner table, each person says a word. The next person has to say a word with the same ending. (ex. mat, rat).	Blending Song (to the tune of If You're Happy & You Know It!): If you think you know this word, shout it out! If you think you know this word, shout it out! If you think you know this word, Then tell me what you've heard, If you think you know this word, shout it out! After singing, say a segmented word such as /k/ /a/ /t/. CAT!	Tap, Tap, GLISSE! Say a short, 3-letter word. On your extended arm, tap from top (shoulder), middle (elbow), end (wrist) the sounds in the word. Ask your child to do the same. This can be done for blending activities, too!	Compound Word Crazy: Using the following compound words, ask your child to say the word. Then say it again without the first or last part of the word. (ex. hotdog, rainbow, strawberry, cupcake, baseball, sunshine).
Musical Syllables! On a pot, pan, or tambourine, tap the syllables of words in a familiar song.	Picture Play. Using a picture book, find an item on a page. Ask child to point to item that starts with the sound _____. (ex. "Find the item that starts with sound /p/")	Simon Says: Say "Simon Says a word that rhymes with ____." Child has to touch that body part and say another word that rhymes with it! (ex. toe, head, foot, eye, ear, hand, leg, nose...)	Silly Sally: Say a short, word. Have your child give you a "Silly Sally" word (or non-word) that rhymes with it and begins sound /s/. (ex. mat-sat; silly-willy; mouse-souse).	Elkonian Box Activity: See instructions in this link to make an easy activity to help your child count individual sounds in words! www.readingrockets.org/strategies/elkonin_boxes	Dr Seuss has many books that teach children about manipulating sounds in words. Check out some of these famous stories & ask your child how Dr. Seuss manipulates sounds to make crazy words for his stories: The Lorax, Green Eggs and Ham, Yurtle the Turtle.