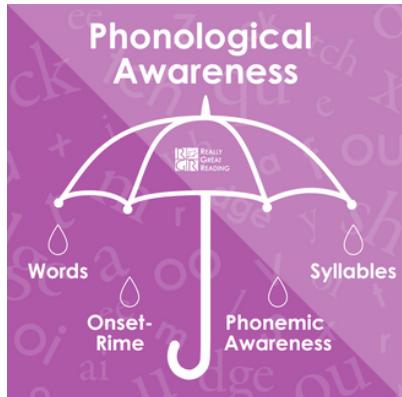


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Fee, Fie, Phonemic Fun!

Strategies for building phonological awareness



Phonological awareness is a critical early literacy skill that helps kids recognize and work with the sounds of spoken language.

Phonological awareness is made up of a group of skills. Examples include being able to:

- Identify words that **rhyme**
- Recognizing **alliteration**
- **Segmenting** a sentence into **words**
- Counting the number of **syllables** in a name or word

The most sophisticated – and last to develop – is called phonemic awareness.

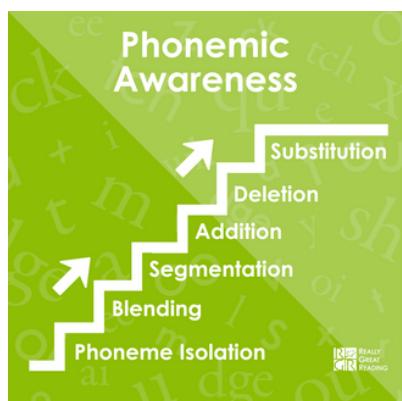


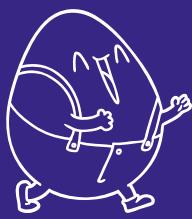
Image Source: ReallyGreatReading.com

Phonemic awareness is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

- Recognizing which words in a set of words begin with the same sound ("Bell, bike, and boy all have /b/ at the beginning.")
- Isolating and saying the first or last sound in a word ("The beginning sound of dog is /d/. The ending sound of sit is /t/.)
- Combining, or blending the separate sounds in a word to say the word ("/m/, /a/, /p/ – map.")
- Breaking, or segmenting a word into its separate sounds ("up – /u/, /p/.)")

The 4 levels of phonological awareness

Word Level	Syllable Level	Onset and Rime Level	Phonemic Awareness Level
Rhyming	one-syllable words	Onset is the initial consonant, consonant blend, or consonant digraph, in a syllable or word. Not all words have onsets (at, in, oat).	The ability to identify and manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in a spoken word. For example, the word moon has three phonemes: /m/ /oo/ /n/
Alliteration	multisyllable words	The rime is the first vowel sound and any other letters that follow it in a syllable. For example, in the word mat, the onset is /m/ and the rime is /at/.	Phonemic awareness is the most advanced skill of phonological awareness.
Sentence segmentation (counting words in a sentence)			



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5 Tips for Developing Phonological Awareness

Tip # 1: Play “I Hear” (I Spy)

- Find objects with matching beginning sounds. Hold an object in your hand, like a cup. Say, “I hear with my little ear something that begins with /k/. What else makes this /k/ sound?” (car, coat, cabinet, clock, cake, candy)

Tip # 2: Feature books that play with sounds

- Dr. Seuss books
- [Read & Rhyme Classic Stories:](#) *Llama Llama Red Pajama, Jamberry, Sheep in a Jeep, The Pout-Pout Fish*
- [Each Peach Pear Plum](#) by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- *Mrs. Millie* series by Judy Cox
- *Did You Take the “B” from my _ook?* by Beck and Matt Stanton

Tip # 3: Play with sounds in words

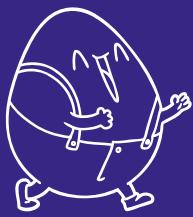
- [Fiddle with the First](#) - swap out the first sound of a word to make a new word
- [Fiddle with the Middle](#) - swap out the middle sound of a word to make a new word
- Tongue Ticklers & Twisters - alliterative phrases with an initial sound repeated over and over again
- Rhyme Swap - swap a word in a common nursery rhyme with a new word to make a new rhyming pattern

Tip # 4: Routinely play segmenting and blending games

- Turtle Talk & Cheetah Chat - slowing down and stretching out words (like a turtle) & speeding them up (like a cheetah)

Tip #5: Share scientific terms in engaging ways

- My Brain - “My brain is plastic, so fantastic, just like elastic, changes can be drastic! The more I learn, the more my brain changes... and rearranges!” by Carolyn H Strom, Ph.D



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Strategies for building phonological awareness



A quick note about phonological and phonemic awareness and phonics: *different but interrelated skills*

Phonological and phonemic awareness refer to **spoken language**

- The understanding that the sounds of spoken language work together to make words.

Phonics refers to the connection between **sounds and print**

- The instruction that teaches that letters represent the sounds of spoken language, or the alphabetic principle. Phonics is the tool teachers use to facilitate making print-sound associations.

References

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 - <https://www.readingrockets.org/literacy-home/reading-101-guide-parents/your-pre-kindergarten-child/phonological-and-phonemic>
- 30 Science of Reading Resources, *Heggerty*
 - <https://heggerty.org/resources/blog-post/science-of-reading-resources/>
- Word Play Throughout the Day: Phonological Awareness in the Preschool Classroom, by Anne Gritt, Kalie Standish, *Teaching Young Children*, Winter 2024
 - <https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/tyc/winter2024/word-play-throughout-the-day>

Supporting Resources from Becker's

- **[Nursery Rhyme Flip Chart Item #SCH13820](#)** - Building phonemic awareness is a joy with this BIG, laminated flip chart featuring 20 well-loved nursery rhymes! Teachers can turn to this sturdy, colorful resource every day to teach rhymes and word families, beginning and ending sounds, early reading skills, and more! Includes instant and engaging questions to build key phonemic awareness skills. 20 pages. 15" x 20½". Grades Pre-K-1
- **[ABC Sing-Along Flip Chart Item #SC978439](#)** - A BIG, laminated flip chart with easy-to-learn songs for each letter of the alphabet! Use to teach phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and more! Grades Pre-K-1 The oversized singalong flip chart features 26 pages, each corresponding to a letter of the alphabet. Includes download for 26 songs, one for each page.
- **[6 Phonemic Awareness Games Item #JL409](#)** - Teach phonemic awareness the fun way with this 6-game set. Each educational game has self-correcting elements with activities that focus on rhyming, alliteration, contrasting sounds and sound talk. Includes 2 board games, 1 megaphone, 20 sound cards, 32 rhyming cards, and a game guide with instructions. Ages 3+
- **[Jumbo Alphabet Unifix Cubes Item #211265W](#)** - Learn letters and build words with these easy-to-connect jumbo alphabet cubes. Set includes alphabet cubes (vowels in red and consonants in blue) and blank cubes. Ages 2+ Set of 30, 1½" on all sides. Activity ideas included
- **[Unifix® Early Phonics Kit Item #DD211277W](#)** - Build foundational reading skills with this multi-sensory phonemic awareness kit that provides targeted practice for alphabet and early phonics concepts. Set includes 90 CVC cubes, activity book and word building cards. Activity book is 120 pages

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