

THE IMPORTANCE OF PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

What is phonological awareness?

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize that words are made up of sounds. Under the term phonological awareness, students are expected to develop phonemic awareness skills. Phonemic awareness is more specific in that it focuses on the just the sound of the phonemes. Phonemic awareness tasks should include pictures or auditory tasks, not letters.

Why is phonemic awareness important?

Children with good phonemic awareness skills are better at spelling, decoding and writing.

When should my child master these skills?

The chart to the right outlines the development of phonological awareness skills children ages 5-7 and typically when they are mastered.

Age	Skill	Example
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identifying Rhyme- Clapping/Counting Syllables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Which two words rhyme? "cat, mit, sat" (cat/sat)- cat (1 syllable), turtle (2 syllables)
5 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Blending onset/rime- Producing a rhyme- Matching initial sounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "What is the word" c-at, d-og, b-ig- "Tell me a word that rhymes with hug" (bug, mug, etc.)- "Say the first sound in sock" (/s/)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Compound word deletion- Blending 2-3 phonemes- Phoneme segmentation of 2-3 phonemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Say birdhouse, Say it again without bird." (house)- /b/ // (bye), /sh/ // /p/ (ship)- "Say the word as you move a chip for each sound" (m-a-n)
6 ½	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Phoneme segmentation of 3-4 phonemes- Phoneme substitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Say the word as you move a chip for each sound" (s-t-o-p)- "Change /d/ in dig to /b/. What is the new word?" (big)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sound deletion (initial/final)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- "Say seat. Say it again without the /s/". (eat)- Say bite. Say it again without the /t/. (bye)