



# Phonological Awareness



**Phonological Awareness** is the ability to hear and play with the parts of words including; syllables, initial word sounds, and rhyming words. As a child develops phonological awareness larger concepts need to be understood before moving on to smaller concepts. This means you may first notice your child recognizing words. Then your child will notice syllables before recognizing rhymes and initial word sounds.

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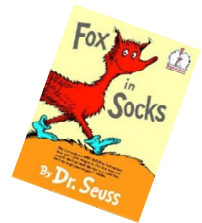
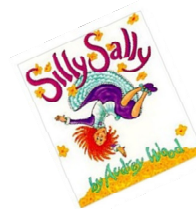
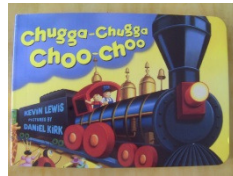
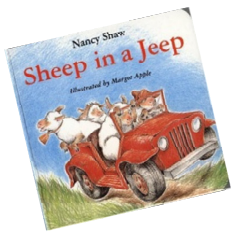
## What to Look for in Books

*Rhyming:* Look for books that have lots of rhyming (words with the same end sounds). These books usually have rhythm to them that make reading and listening fun.

*Alliteration:* Books with alliteration (words starting with the same initial sound) also help build phonological awareness.

*Sing-Along:* There are many books based on songs that will be familiar. Singing slows down language, making it easier for children to learn.

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## Syllable Segmentation

### "I Say It Slowly, You Say It Fast" Game

- Explain to your child that you will say the sounds in a word slowly. Your child will then say it fast.  
 You say, "spi - der"                      child says, "spider."  
 You say, "cow - boy"                    child says, "cowboy."
- As your child becomes more familiar with the activity, swap roles  
 You say "spider"                        child says "spi - der"

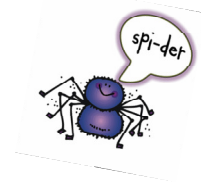


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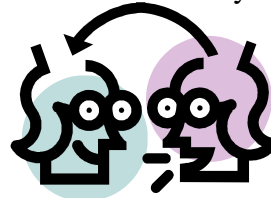
## Sound Isolation

### "I Say It Slowly, You Say It Fast" Game

- Teacher explains that she will say the sounds in a word slowly. Children take turns saying it fast.

You say, "/k/-/a/-/t/                      child says, "cat."

You say, "cow - boy"                      child says, "cowboy."



### "I hear with my little ear..."

- Start off by saying, "I hear with my little ear, the sound /\_\_/" (fill in the letter sound). Then give three words with one of the three starting with that letter sound.

You say, "I hear with my little ear /m/. -meet-greet-seat-"                      child says "meet"

- Make this game more challenging by giving words with similar initial sounds

You say, "I hear with my little ear /m/. -meet-neat-seat-"                      child says "meet"

## Sound Substitution

### Songs that Teach Sound Substitution

- Choose a song your students all know and substitute a consonant sound for the beginning of each word in the song.

One song that works well is the second chorus from "I've Been Working on the Railroad:

"Fee-Fi-Fiddle-ee-I-Oh"

"Bee-Bi-Biddle-ee-I-Oh"

"Dee-Di-Diddle-ee-I-Oh"

"Hee-Hi-Hiddle-ee-I-Oh"

Try Old Mac Donald Had a Farm making substitutions when singing about each new animal.

For a cow, sing, "kee-high, kee-kigh, koh!"

For a sheep, sing, "shee-shigh, shee-shigh, shoh!"

Another fun song to try is called "Apples and Bananas"

"I like to eat, eat, eat

Apples and Bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat

Apples and Bananas"

*Change the vowel sound for each verse*

A: I like to ate, ate, ate / ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

E: I like to eat, eat, eat / ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

I: I like to ite, ite, ite/ i-ples and bi-ni-nis



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o: I like to ote, ote, ote / oh-ples and bo-no-nos  
like to oot, oot, oot / oo-ples and boo-noo-noos



## Phonological Awareness



### Rhyming Activities

#### Rhyming words in songs, poems, and big books

- As you do shared reading with your child, pause at the end of phrases and emphasize the rhyming word or, as your child becomes more aware of rhyming, let him or her supply the rhyming words.
- Read the poem together and ask your child to find the rhyming words.
- Generate other words that rhyme with these rhyming words.

#### Snap and Clap Rhymes

- Begin with a simple clap and snap rhythm. Get more complex as children move along in rhyming.

Clap Clap Snap fall Clap Clap Snap ball  
Clap Clap Snap hall Clap Clap Snap \_\_\_\_

- A variation is the "I say, You say" game:

I say fat. You say \_\_\_\_\_. I say red. You say \_\_\_\_\_.



#### I Spy a Rhyming Word

- While your child is just learning how to rhyme you can add more description to your phrase to help him or her find the rhyming word. As your child improves, just give him or her the rhyming word.



I spy with my little eye something that is white and rhymes with clock. - Sock!

I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with label. - Table!

- You can play these games with any book or picture or even as you walk or drive around.



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