

# Phonological Awareness

**Phonological Awareness Definition:** The ability to hear and manipulate the sound structure of the language.

Some background information on phonological awareness....

- Evidence shows that children with a strong sense of phonological awareness are more likely to experience ease in learning to read.
- Phonological awareness involves manipulation of syllables, words, sentences, and individual sounds. Phonemic awareness is more specific. It only involves manipulation of individual sounds (phonemes). Phonological awareness is the “umbrella” term under which phonemic awareness falls.
- Phonological/phonemic awareness activities can be done in the dark. They do not involve letters. As soon as letters are involved, it becomes phonics.

## Tasks to Practice in the Car (or anywhere else!)

### *Rhyming*

- Use nursery rhymes to cultivate understanding of rhythm and rhyme
- Do these words rhyme?
  - cat/hat
  - box/lip
- Give me another rhyming word:
  - rack, sack, ?
- Sentence Search
  - *The man had a can.* Which words rhyme in that sentence?

### *Alliteration*

- Do these words start with the same sound?
  - may, cow
  - bakery, banana

### *Phoneme Isolation*

- What is the first sound in these words? rain, bunny, farm
- What is the last sound in these words? hut, bug, vine
- What is the middle sound in these words? hot, rug, bill

## ***Blending***

- Oral Blending: Say the first syllable of a word and then the other syllable(s). What's the word? side....walk = sidewalk, tel...e...phone = telephone
- Oral Blending: Say the first sound of a word and then the rest of the word. What's the word? /s/...at = sat
- Oral Blending: Say the first part of the word and then the last sound. What's the word? sa.../t/ = sat
- Oral Blending: Say each sound of the word. What's the word? /s/ /u/ /n/ = sun

## ***Segmentation into Words, Syllables, and Phonemes***

- Say the sentence and clap each word
- Say the word and clap the syllables
- Say the word and identify the first or last syllable
- Say the word and clap each sound
- Say the word and identify the first, middle, or last
- Say the word sound by sound:  
tub = /t/.../u/.../b/

## ***Deletion of Syllables and Phonemes***

- Delete syllable: Cowboy – now don't say boy
- Delete syllable: Sunshine – now don't say sun
- Delete phoneme: Say each word and have the child say the word without the first sound. cold = old
- Delete phoneme: Say each word delete end sound.  
nose = no

## ***Substitution***

- The word is "mad" replace the first sound with /s/. What's the word?  
sad
- The word is "hop" replace the last sound with /t/. What's the word? hot
- The word is "fit" replace the middle sound with /a/. What's the word?  
fat

### ***Categorization***

- What word starts with a different sound: bag, nine, beach?
- What word ends with a different sound: fat, sun, lit?
- What word has a different middle sound: man, pit, win?

### ***Polysyllabic Sequencing***

- Listen for "tion" and tell me if it's in the beginning/middle/end.
  - nation/fiction/action
- Listen for "re" and tell me if it's in the beginning/middle/end.
  - remind/regard/recess
- The word to listen for is man. Do you hear man in:
  - manager? demand? camp?

### ***Verbal Memory Tasks***

- **boat/ ride/ seed**
  - Did I say ride?
- **lamb/ hat/ purse**
  - Did I say limb?'
- **Four/ six/ seven**
  - Did I say five?

### ***Retrieval Tasks***

- Listen while I say a list of words and then repeat them to me in the same order in which I said them. fish, dish, spoon, moon, fork, pork.
- Give me a word that starts with /m/ and ends with /p/.
- Repeat this list: p q r s a