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. Phonic 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 phonic.

**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

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**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