

PHONEMIC AWARENESS



Phonological Awareness

...the ability to identify and manipulate speech sounds regardless of size. Phonological awareness encompasses awareness of rhyme, syllables, onset-rime, and phonemes.

rhyme dog & log

syllables fan / tas / tic

onset-rime d / og

phonemes d / o / g

Phonemic Awareness

...the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words. Phonemic awareness is a subset of Phonological Awareness.

phonemes d / o / g

ch / a / t

c / oa / t

Phonemic Awareness Development

Students identify initial and final consonant sounds

Example: Students would be able to identify the /s/ and /p/ sounds in the word *slump*

Students identify the middle vowel sound in words

Example: Students would be able to identify the /u/ sound in the word *slump*

Students identify the individual sounds represented by consonant blends at the beginning or end of words

Example: Students would be able to identify the /l/ and /m/ sounds in the word *slump*

FOCUS ON LETTER-SOUND CONNECTIONS!



To be able to read and spell, students need to connect the phonemes (sounds) in words to the letter(s) that represent them. It is important to teach phonemic awareness skills starting mid-kindergarten and to explicitly show students how letters represent sounds. Using letters to practice identifying sounds in words is more effective than thinking or talking about sounds alone.

Guidance for Phonemic Awareness Instruction



Be explicit.
Model what kids
should do.



Provide practice
opportunities and
feedback.



Draw attention
to how the
mouth moves
when making
sounds

Start with
continuous
sounds (/s/)
then move to
stop sounds
(/t/)



Teach oral
blending and
segmenting
from the
beginning of
kindergarten



Incorporate
letters ASAP



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REFERENCES

Brady, S.A. (2020). A 2020 perspective on research findings on alphabets (phoneme awareness and phonics): Implications for instruction. *The Reading League Journal*, 1, 20-28.