



## Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness refers to the ability to segment and manipulate the sounds of oral language. Phonemic awareness, which involves knowing how written letters relate to spoken sounds, is one part of phonological awareness. Activities that develop phonological awareness in children provide practice with rhyme and with beginning and ending sounds and syllables. (IRA, International Reading Association)

Phonological awareness is the strongest predictor of children's future reading and spelling abilities. (Weitzman and Greenberg)

### **Here are some fun ways you can develop phonological awareness skills at home:**

- Think of a simple, short sentence. Have your child repeat and clap for each word they say. The boy is jumping. (4 claps) My dog barks. (3 claps)
- Nursery Rhymes are an excellent way to teach rhyming, as are simple songs and chants. Your child will love to hear them over and over again.
- Dr. Seuss books are a wonderful source for rhyming. So curl up with your child and enjoy.
- Create your own silly rhyming songs or verses. Be sure to repeat them several times.
- Next time you're at the park, play "Swing & Say" with your child. Give the swing a push and say a silly verse: "Up to the sky, you're going to..." To earn another push, your child must make a rhyme: "...fly!"  
Another time, to earn another push, ask your child to finish a silly sentence using the same letter sounds: "Jenna's jumper..... jingles." "Camden's kitten.....is cuddly."
- Go on a nature walk and look for things that begin with the same sound as your child's name. Ben and butterfly begin with same sound. /b/
- Think of two words that begin with the same sound and one word that begins with a different sound. Example: mat, sit, mop Say the words and have your child say them with you. Then ask you child to tell you the two words that begin with the same sound. (Your child may need a lot of help at first.)
- Clap hands for the number of syllable in the names of each member of the family. Me-lis-sa (3 claps) E-li (2 claps) Vary this activity by slapping knees, or tapping toes.
- Play a sorting game with your child where they have to sort objects that begin with the same sound or end with the same sound. You could also sort items by the number of syllables they have. Ball has 1 syllable, while di-no-saur has 3.