

Phonemic Awareness

What is phonemic awareness?

- Phonemic Awareness is the understanding that speech is made up of individual sounds. When a child has developed phonemic awareness they are able to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds within a word.

How can I help my child develop phonemic awareness?

- read and listen to nursery rhymes
- practice making rhymes (real and nonsense)
- say tongue twisters together
- clap syllables in various words (use names, favorite foods, TV characters, etc.)
- sing "sound-play" songs (Old MacDonald, B-I-N-G-O, Apples & Bananas)
- ask your child to:
 - say the first sound in a word
 - orally blend sounds together to make words (/c/, /a/, /p/ = cap)
 - change the beginning or ending sound to make a new word

Children's literature that supports phonemic awareness:

- Ahlberg, J. (1979). *Each peach pear plum*. New York: Viking.
- Bayer, J. (1984). *A my name is Alice*. New York: The Dial Press.
- Carle, E. (1974). *All about Arthur (an absolutely absurd ape)*. New York: Franklin Watts.
- Mosel, Arlene. (1989). *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. New York: Holt.
- Seuss, Dr. (1974). *There's a wocket in my pocket*. New York: Random House.
- Van Allsburg, C. (1987). *The Z was zapped*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

