

Phonological Awareness Activities to do at Home:

These activities are intended to be done orally and for short periods of time (5-7 min.) repeatedly, during everyday life.

Examples: at the store, in the car, in the bath tub, waiting for appointments, waiting in line, etc.

RHYMING ACTIVITIES:

To Parents: Our English language spelling system is based (mostly) on rhyming patterns: phonetics. It is important that children learn to recognize and produce rhymes before they can effectively use formal reading instruction.

1. Parent reads a nursery rhyme, song, poem, or jingle aloud.

Child identifies the rhyming words that he/she heard. Favorites:

Down by the Bay by Raffi Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle

2. Rhyme Hunt

Parent thinks of a one syllable word; for example, "cat."

Parent chants, "Let's make a rhyme for "cat."

Child answers: "sat"

Sample word list:

book-cook	tree-flea	try-fly	me-tea
two-blue	free-bee	pot-hot	wall-call
play-day	cat-fat	run-sun	time-lime

3. What Does Not Belong?

Parent gives the child three words. Two of the words rhyme. Child finds the word that does not belong (does not rhyme).

Example:

Parent: "rat, men, hat"

Child: "men"

Sample Word List

hit-sit-fat

hen-Tom-pen

man-can-bell

hill-mop-top

4. Syllable Play

Parent picks up small objects and puts them on the table. Have your child sort them by the number of syllables.

Child: looks at napkin and claps for each syllable, nap-kin, two syllables.

WORD PLAY

1. Blending and Segmenting Words (putting together words and taking them apart). Be sure to say the sounds -- not the names of the letters.

Initial sounds:

Parent says, "Start with 'l', add 'unch.' What's the word?"

Child: "lunch"

Parent: "Start with 's' and add 'andwich.' What's the word?"

Child: "sandwich"

Final sounds:

Parent: "Start with 'superma', add an 'n' sound. What's the word?"

Child: "Superman"

Parent: "Start with 'stam,' add a 'p' sound. What's the word?"

Child: "stamp"

Continue the above activities with any familiar words.

2. Middle Sounds:

Parent says three words with same middle vowel sound.

Parent: "teeth, cheek, deep. What sound do you hear in the middle?"

Child: "ee"

Continue activity with different vowel sounds.

Sample word list:

sack-mack-tack

heat-seam-meal

hop-mom-pot

dock-lot-Tom

sank-tank-thank

comb-poke-wrote

hen-yell-pet

hill-tick-sip

Phonemic Awareness activities

1. Whole Word (from part to whole)

Parent gives the child a one-syllable word to blend, one **sound** (not letter) at a time.

Parent: "b...i...g" What's the word?"

Child: "big"

Parent: "s...t...o...p" What's the word?"

Child: "stop"

Parent: "n..u..t: what's the word?"

Child: "nut"

Helpful Hint: A great time to accomplish these activities is in your car. You can read street signs and other print that you may come across.

2. Whole Word (from whole to part)

Parent says entire word: "big"

Child says each individual sound: "b...i...g"

Sample word list (any words will work)

cat

sam

mop

lake

when (remember, the "h" is silent -- so your child won't hear it.)

top

game

rug

