

Phonological & Phonemic Awareness

Why is Phonological awareness important?

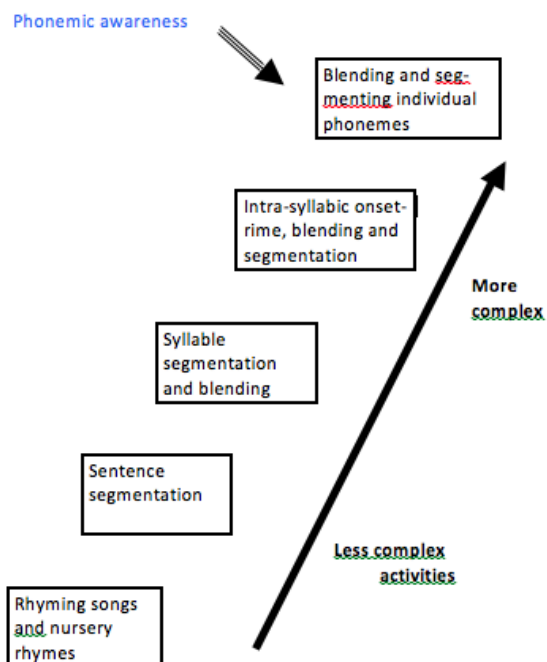
- One of the best predictors of later reading and spelling success
- Lack of awareness of sound structure as evidenced in syllables and words, makes it difficult to learn phoneme-grapheme correspondences (reading and spelling)
- Phonological awareness can be facilitated
- Literacy skills begin to develop in early childhood before formal schooling and learning to read

What is Phonological awareness?

The awareness of the underlying sound structures of spoken language, and the ability to manipulate these sound structures.

What is Phonemic awareness?

The understanding that words are composed of discrete sounds that can be manipulated. Phonemic awareness is a *subcategory and the highest level* of Phonological awareness.



Then what is Phonics?

Connecting of sounds to letters (written symbols)

Components of Phonological & Phonemic Awareness

Components	Examples
Rhyming Nursery rhymes and songs Discrimination Production	"Twinkle, twinkle, little star" Do "hat" and "cat" rhyme? Tell me a word that rhymes with "star"
Onset-rime and phonograms	"H-and", "s-and", "l-and", "st-and", etc. The initial consonant/s that changes the meaning of the word is called an onset, and the syllable consisting of a vowel and consonant/s is called a rime. Phonograms are the common elements in word families.
Alliteration	Rhyme in which words start/end with the same sound, e.g.: "sh" - shell, she, shoe, or "wish" "dish", "wish", etc
Assonance	Rhyme in words in which the same vowel sounds are used with different consonants, e.g.: "In the <u>pa</u> rk after <u>da</u> rk, if you <u>ca</u> re to go, in the <u>gr</u> ass, as you <u>pa</u> ss, you will see <u>la</u> mps glow...."
Segmentation Sentences Compound words Syllables Phonemes	"The cat is cross" (Clap for each word) "Rainbow" (Clap for each part of the word) "Table" (Clap for each syllable) "Dog" (Clap for each phoneme)
Isolation Initial Final Medial	What sound is at the beginning of "cat"? What sound is at the end of "cat"? What sound is in the middle of "cat"?
Deletion Compounds/Syllables Phonemes	Say "pancake", say it again but don't say "pan" Say "snake", say it again but don't say "n"
Substitution With manipulatives (i.e. blocks to represent sounds) Without manipulatives	Using blocks of different colours for each phoneme in a word such as "cat". Show me how to change "cat" to "mat" Say "mouse". Change the "s" to "th"
Blending Compounds/Syllables Phonemes	Put the sounds together - "te..le..vi..sion" Put the sounds together - "b..e..d"

Practical tips for improving phonological and phonemic awareness.

Start with easier tasks before tackling harder ones!

Remember the following guidelines:

1. The **size of the phonological unit** (e.g.: it is easier to break sentences into words and words into syllables, than to break syllables into phonemes)
2. The **number of phonemes in the word** (it is easier to break phonemically shorter words such as "man" than "sleep")
3. **Phoneme position in words** (initial consonants are easier than final consonants and middle consonants are most difficult)
4. **Phonological properties of words** (continuants such as /s/ and /m/ are easier than very brief sounds such as /t/)
5. **Phonological awareness challenges** (rhyming and initial phoneme identification are easier than blending and segmenting)