

Phonological Awareness

Phonological and phonemic awareness are often used as interchangeable terms and concepts. They are not interchangeable. Phonological awareness is much broader, it includes identifying larger parts of speech such as words, syllables, and onsets and rimes. On the other hand, phonemic awareness deals with the smallest unit of speech the, phoneme.

A child who has phonological awareness can do the following types of activities.

- Identify and construct oral rhymes;
 - “Jay can (play).”
 - “The pig can (jig).”
 - “Fan the “man”.”
- Identify and work with syllables in spoken words,
 - “Clap the parts of your name:
 - Pe-ter.”
- Identify and work with onsets and rimes in spoken syllables or one-syllable words;
 - “The first part of boy is b-.”
 - “The last part of pan is –an.”
- Identifying and working with individual phonemes in spoken words;
 - “The first sound in sand is /s/.”

There is a continuum of phonological awareness skills presented in the following table.

Phonological Awareness Continuum

Type	Description	Examples
Phonemes	Blending phonemes into words, segmenting words into individual phonemes, and manipulating phonemes ins spoken words	/k/ /a/ /t/ /sh/ /i/ /p/ /s/ /t/ /o/ /p/
Onsets and Rimes	Blending and segmenting the initial consonant or consonant cluster (onset) and the vowel and consonant sounds spoken after it (rime)	/m/ /an/ /pl/ /ay/
Syllables	Blending syllables to say words or segmenting spoken words into syllables	/mag/ /net/ /ta/ /ble/
Sentence Segmentation	Segmenting sentences into spoken words	The boy ran. 1 2 3
Alliteration	Producing groups of words that begin with the same initial sound	ten tiny tadpoles
Rhyme	Matching the ending sounds of words	can, man, fan

How do you integrate phonological awareness activities into your reading instruction?

References

Armbruster, B. and Osbourne, J. (2001). *Put Reading First*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.
 Illinois State Board of Education. (2004). *Reading First Academy: Third Grade Module*. Springfield, IL: Illinois State Board of Education.

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