

# Phonological Awareness

## What Is Phonological Awareness?

Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and identify the various sounds in spoken words.

Kids who have strong phonological awareness can do things like rhyme, count syllables, and blend sounds into words. Strong phonological awareness helps kids learn to read much more easily.

Phonological awareness develops gradually over time. Kids start with the easiest skills—understanding that spoken language contains words—and then move on to skills like rhyming. Eventually they develop the more advanced skills such as manipulating sounds.



## Quick Check for Phonological Awareness

- Your child is able to rhyme. If you say the word *bat*, your child can respond with a rhyming word like *hat*.
- Your child understands word boundaries. If you say the sentence *Don't let the cat out*, your child is able to separate the sentence into five individual words.
- Your child can clap syllables. If you say *dog*, your child knows to clap once. If you say *umbrella*, your child knows to clap three times.
- Your child can blend sounds to make a word. If you say the sounds *sh...eep*, your child can say the word *sheep*.
- Your child can identify the beginning sound in a word. If you ask your child to say the first sound in *pig*, he will be able to respond with the sound /p/.
- Your child can identify the ending sound in a word. If you ask him to say the last sound in the word *jam*, your child is able to respond with the sound /m/.

## Phonological Awareness Activities

“Go Find It!” is a great activity that helps your child learn to identify the beginning sound in a spoken word.

Read lots of rhyming picture books. Head to the library with my [Rhyming Picture Books Library List](#).

Get some great teaching tips and download three sample reading lessons in [this blog post](#) about teaching rhyming.

Play “[Help the Monkeys](#)” to help your child learn to count syllables.

Download my [Nursery Rhymes Library List](#) and enjoy lots of nursery rhymes with your child.

Play “[Dinner Time](#)” with your child to help him practice sound substitution and rhyming.

Practice rhyming, identifying the first sound of a word, oral blending, and clapping syllables with [In the Kitchen with the Zigzag Zebra!](#)

## Contact Us

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