

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear individual sounds in words and the ability to identify those particular sounds.

Phonograms are a fixed combo of 2+ letters that represent one sound in a given word. "A lack of phonemic awareness is the most powerful predictor of reading failure because of its importance in learning how print represents spoken words (the alphabetic principle). If children cannot discriminate individual sounds within spoken words, they have an extremely difficult time learning symbols that represent speech sounds—the essence of decoding."

—Romalda Spalding

Our language is made up of sounds and rhythms. Hearing the language as it is spoken acquaints children with this rhythm and helps them hear the sound patterns that will help them make sense of reading. One way to help children hear and notice patterns in language is through rhyming. A rhyme is two or more words that are the same except for the beginning sound, i.e., rat/hat/mat or shoe/blue/two. Children learn to hear the similarities and differences in words. Here are some suggestions for incorporating rhyme into everyday activities:

1. Play CD's or sing children's songs as you work around the house or ride in the car. The lyrics are usually full of rhyme.
2. Recite nursery rhymes or read poetry.
3. Many children's books are rhyming books. Read them during your daily reading time. Leave out the rhyming word at the end of a phrase and let your child fill it in. Some suggestions:

The Real Mother Goose

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. and Lois Ehlert

Goodnight, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

I Can't Say the Ant by Polly Cameron

Most books by Dr. Seuss such as:

Dr. Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book

There's a Wocket in my Pocket

Green Eggs and Ham

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

4. Play the rhyming game anywhere. Name an object that is around you and help your child make a rhyme—nonsense words count!

Here is a song that helps to build phonemic Awareness:

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

I like to eat, eat, eat apples and bananas

Now change the vowel sound to I:

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

I like to ite, ite, ite i-ples and bi-ni-nis

Now change the vowel sound to A:

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

I like to ate, ate, ate ay-ples and ba-nay-nays

Now change the vowel sound to O:

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

I like to ote, ote, ote oh-ples and bo-no-nos

Now change the vowel sound to E:

I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

I like to eat, eat, eat ee-ples and bee-nee-nees

Now change the vowel sound to U:

I like to ute, ute, ute, upples and bu-nu-nus,

I like to ute, ute, ute, upples and bu-nu-nus

*For more ideas on phonemic Awareness, please visit the school's website: www.hawthornacademy.org.

Great Books for Phonemic Awareness

- Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain (Aardema)
Noisy Poems (Bennett)
Tiny Tim (Bennett)
Hand Rhymes (Brown)
I Love You, Good Night (Buller & Schade)
The Biggest Tongue Twister Book in the World (Brandeth)
What am I? Very First Riddles (Calmenson)
All About Arthur: An Absolutely Absurd Ape (Carle)
The Hopeful Trout and other Limericks (Ciardi)
*Goggly Gookers (Cowley)
Mrs. Wishy Washy (Cowley)
Tomie dePaola's Mother Goose (dePaola)
Sing a Song of Popcorn (deRegniers, Schenk, White, & Bennett)
Butterscotch Dreams (Dunn)
Crackers and Crumbs (Dunn)
Deep Down Underground (Dunrea)
101 School Jokes (Eisenber & Hall)
One Wide River to Cross (Emberley)
In the Tall, Tall Grass (Fleming)
In the Small, Small Pond (Fleming)
Henny Penny (Galdone)
Is Your Mama a Llama? (Guarino & Kellogg)
Stop that Noise! (Geraghty)
Jillian Jiggs (Gilman)
Six Sleepy Sheep (Gordon)
*Jewels, Children's Play Rhymes (Harwayne)
Pat the Cat (Hawkins & Hawkins)
Surprises (Hopkins)
The Sky is Full of Song (Hopkins)
Don't Forget the Bacon (Hutchins)
*Letter Clusters (Iversen)
I Can Fly (Krauss)
Roar and More (Kuskin)
Oh, A-Hunting We Will Go (Langstaf)
Alligator Pie (Lee)
Jelly Belly: Original Nursery Rhymes (Lee)
Frederick (Lionni)
Buzz Said the Bee (Lewison)
What's a Frank Frank? (Maestro)
The Hungry Thing Returns (Slepián & Seidler)
The Dove Dove (Terban)
Eight Ate: A Feast of Homonym Riddles (Terban)
The Itsy Bitsy Spider (Trapani)
1000 Knock Knock Jokes for Kids (Kilgariff)
I Don't Care! Said the Bear (West)
The Happy Hippopotami (Martin)
The Teddy Bear Book (Marzollo)
One Sun: A Book of Terse Verse (McMillan)
Pigs Aplenty, Pigs Galore! (McPhail)
When We Were Very Young (Milne)
Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin (Moss)
Row, Row, Row Your Boat (Muller)
Hickory, Dickory, Dock (Muller & Duranceau)
Poems for 7-year-olds and Under (Nicoll)
Faint Frogs Feeling Feverish, and other Terrifically Tantalizing Tongue Twisters (Obligado)
Moose on the Loose (Ochs)
Dinosaur Chase (Otto)
Amelia Bedelia books (Parrish)
Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Mud (Plourde & Schoenherr)
My Parents Think I'm Sleeping (Prelutsky)
The Random House Book of Poetry for Children (Prelutsky)
Read Aloud Rhymes for the Very Young (Prelutsky)
Something Big Has Been Here (Prelutsky)
Old Mother Hubbard (Provinsen & Provinsen)
Alphabet Annie Announces the All-American Album (Purviance & O'Shell)
Down by the Bay (Raffi)
Sing a Song of Mother Goose (Reid)
We're Going on a Bear Hunt (Rosen)
Frogs in Clogs (Samton)
A Twister of Twists, A Tangler of Tongues (Schwartz)
Fox in Socks (Seuss)
Green Eggs and Ham (Seuss)
There's a Wocket in my Pocket (Seuss)
Sheep on a Ship (Shaw)
The Listening Walk (Showers)
Where the Sidewalk Ends (Silverstein)
A Giraffe and a Half (Silverstein)
The Hungry Thing (Slepián & Seidler)
The Lady with the Alligator Purse (Westcott)
Hush, Little Baby (Zemach)

