

## Suggested At-Home Activities for Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds- **phonemes**-in spoken words. Before children learn to read print, they need to become more aware of how the sounds in words work. Below are a list of suggested activities you can do at home to help your child with phonemic awareness.

- ❑ Play “I Spy” with your child, but instead of giving a color say, “I spy something that starts with /b/” or “I spy something with these sounds, /b/, /ǒ/, /x/” Have your child do the same.
- ❑ Play a game in which you say a word and your child has to segment all the sounds. Ask your child to stretch out a word like cat and he/she can pretend to stretch a word with a rubber band. Your child should say /c/, /ǎ/, /t/.
- ❑ Play the “Silly Name Game”. Replace the first letter of each family member’s name with a different letter. For example, ‘Tob’ for ‘Bob’, ‘Watt’ for ‘Matt’, etc.
- ❑ Say a sentence aloud and ask your child to determine how many words were in the sentence.
- ❑ Demonstrate clapping a word into its syllables. Ask your child to clap words into syllables.
- ❑ Make tally marks for the number of syllables in the names of people in your family, favorites foods, etc.
- ❑ Explain that rhymes are words that sound the same at the end.
- ❑ Read books over and over again containing rhymes.
- ❑ As you read, have your child complete the rhyming word at the end of each line.
- ❑ Orally provide pairs of words that rhyme and pairs that do not rhyme. (Example: Pan/man; pat/boy) Ask, “Do ‘pan’ and ‘man’ rhyme? Why? Do ‘pat’ and ‘boy’ rhyme? Why not?”
- ❑ Prompt your child to produce rhymes. Ask, “Can you tell me a word that rhymes with ‘Cake’?”
- ❑ Sing rhyming songs like, “Row, Row, Row, your Boat” or “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”
- ❑ To help your child segment (separate) sounds in words:
  - Give your child 3-5 blocks, beads, bingo chips or smaller items. Say a word and have your child move an object for each sound in the word.
  - Play “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” with sounds. Say a word and have your child touch his/her head for the first sound, shoulders for the second sound and knees for the third while saying each sound.
  - Jump for Sounds-Say a word and have your child jump for each sound in the word while saying the sound.