Phonological Awareness

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS is the ability to HEAR the SOUNDS in spoken words.

SYLLABLES are the parts or beats in a word. Hearing syllables can help your child sound out words. For example: baby—ba-by. Baby has two syllables or beats.

The ONSET is the first sound in a word, and the RIME is the rest of the word. In the word house, /h/ is the onset and /ouse/ is the rime.

PHONEMES are the smallest sounds in words. The number of phonemes in a word does not always match the number of letters. Eat has two phonemes—/ē/ /t/. Chin has three phonemes—/ch/ /i/ /n/. Stop has four phonemes—/s/ /t/ /o/ /p/.

Try these fun activities at home or on the go!

SOUND SCAVENGER HUNT Choose a sound, and go on a hunt. Start with a sound that can be stretched out, like one of these: sssss, mmmm, or fffff. Stretching the sound helps your child hear it more clearly.

ADULT Let’s look for things that start with /m/.
mmm. . . mustard, mmm. . . mail, mmm

CHILD milk

ADULT Now let’s look for things that start with /s/
sss. . . sandwich, sss. . . sink, sss

CHILD socks

RHYME TIME Find an object that has a simple name. For example, mug. Now, say words that rhyme with mug.

ADULT What rhymes with mug? mug, bug, tug, zug

CHILD slug

Some of the words will be real, and some will be silly! Choose a new word to play again (dog, sky, pot, tree). Playing with sounds can be fun and will help your child build the skills they need for learning to read.

Visit http://bit.ly/3mSLY7E to view these example activities and more.

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