



Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness—the ability to hear the sounds in spoken language—forms the foundational listening skills necessary for learning to read.

The development of phonological awareness skills follows a progression from attention to larger units of spoken language (syllables) to smaller ones (onset/rime and individual phonemes).



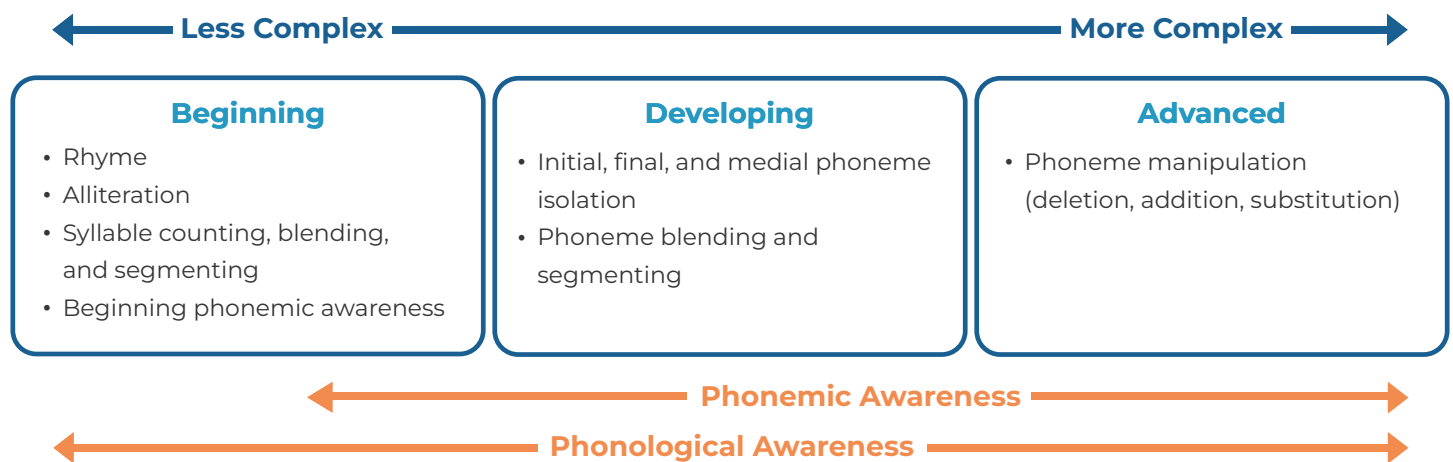
Phonemes are the individual sounds in words and don't necessarily match the number of letters.

Eat has two phonemes—/ē/-/t/.

Chin has three phonemes—/ch/-/i/-/n/.

Stop has four phonemes—/s/-/t/-/o/-/p/.

Waterford Early Learning's instructional strands for literacy are aligned with the Essential Components of Reading identified by the National Reading Panel (NICHD, 2000).



[View example Phonological Awareness activities here.](#)

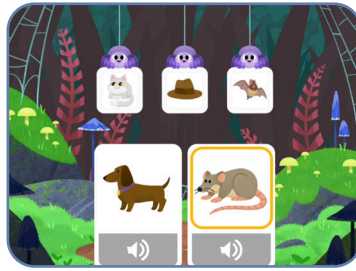
Beginning Students hear and identify the larger units of sound—syllables and onset-rime—in words.

Syllables



Determine the number of syllables in a spoken word.

Rhyme



Determine which word has the same rhyme as *cat*, *hat*, and *bat*.

Onset/Rime



Determine whether the spoken onset and rime blend to make the word represented by the picture.

Intermediate Students isolate, blend, and segment individual phonemes in words.

Phoneme Isolation



Determine the position of a specific phoneme in a spoken word.

Phoneme Blending



Determine whether a series of phonemes blends to make the word represented by the picture.

Phoneme Segmentation



Determine the number of phonemes in a spoken word.

Advanced Research shows that becoming a fluent reader requires advanced phonemic awareness skills—the ability to manipulate phonemes in words.

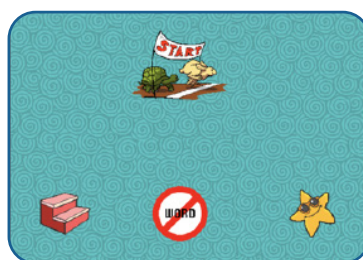
Phoneme Manipulation

Addition



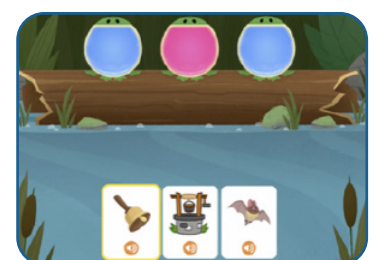
Determine the new word that is formed when a given phoneme is added.

Deletion



Determine the new word that is formed when a given phoneme is deleted.

Substitution



Build and identify new words by substituting individual phonemes.



Waterford Phonological Awareness Activity

Students blend phonemes and identify the word that is formed.

Waterford Phonics Activity

For the same word, students connect sounds (phonemes) with letters (graphemes) to decode and identify the word.

