

Phonological Awareness Activities You Can Do With Your Child

Syllable Awareness- (*blending syllables to form words*)

Whether grocery shopping, riding in the car, taking a walk or waiting in the doctors office, the following are some activities that you can do with your child to build his or her phonological awareness

- Play “I’m thinking of a word that is made with two syllables sun...shine. If I blend sun...shine: Sun.....shine, what word do you hear?” (child’s response- “sunshine”) More examples- ta...ble, pop...corn, bas...ket, pen...cil, rain...bow
- Guess what word I’m trying to say? (say the separate syllables in a word, pausing between each syllable and have your child guess what word you are saying. (ta...ble, pum....kin, po...ta...to, ham...ber...ger, ca...ter...pil..lar)
- Clap out the syllables in the names of your family members and other multi-syllable words

Blending Onset-Rime

Onset is first sound before the vowel and rime is the rest of the word starting with the vowel. Only use one-syllable words! (/m/.../at/, /s/.../un/

- Play I spy and give your child clues that encourage them to blend the **onset** (the first sound of a word) with the **rime** (the rest of the word).

I spy a /c/.../at/- child says cat

I spy a /b/.../ocks/ - child says box

I spy a /r/.../ug/ - child says rug

I spy a /ch/.../air/ - child says chair

I spy a /c/.../up/ - child says cup

Note: It’s best to use words with one syllable

Rhyming

- Play simple rhyming games with your child, such as taking turns coming up with words that rhyme (go – no), or “I’m thinking of a word that rhymes with dish and it begins with the sound /f/ (say the **sound** NOT the letter)
- Read books with rhymes. Call attention to the words that rhyme.
- Say nursery rhymes with your child and have your child fill in the rhyming words (e.g., Humpty Dumpty sat on a **wall**, Humpty Dumpty had a great _____. (fall)

Phonemic Awareness Games (appropriate for 3 and 4-year olds)

Beginning Sounds: (/s/ indicates sound NOT letter)

Packing for a Trip- Let's pretend we are packing for a trip (or packing a lunch, or collecting objects, etc.) and we are only going to pack things that begin with the sound /s/ (NOT the letter). I am going to pack some soap and some soup. What else begins with the sound /s/?

- **I Spy-** I spy something that begins with /b/ and it rhymes with look. (book)

More examples:

- *Begins with /s/ and rhymes with bun- sun*
- *Begins with /r/ and rhymes with toad- road*
- *Begins with /s/ and rhymes with my- sky*
- *Begins with /l/ and rhymes with night- light*

Ending Sounds (pre-k skill)

- **I spy** – I spy something that ends with /___/ and (give child friendly definition)
I spy something that ends with /g/ and it barks
I spy something that ends with /n/ and it shines in the sky
I spy something that ends with /n/ that flies in the sky
I spy something that ends with /f/ and it grows on trees
- **“I’m thinking of a word that ends with ___ and (give child friendly definition)**
I’m thinking of a word that ends with /t/ and it has kittens. (*cat*)
I’m thinking of a word that ends with /d/ and we sleep in it. (*bed*)
I’m thinking of a word that ends with /b/ and we take baths inside it. (*tub*)

Blending Phonemes (pre-k skill)

- **Guess the Word**
Guess what word I am trying to say? /c/.../a/.../t/ (cat), /s/.../u/.../n/ (sun), /f/.../i/.../sh/
Use only one syllable words that your child is familiar with.
- **I Spy**
I spy something that sounds like /c/.../u/.../p/ and we drink from it.
I spy something that sounds like /s/.../i/.../t/ and we do this when we eat at the table

Alphabet Knowledge Activities You Can Do With Your Child

- Call attention to letters in child's first name or letters in names of family members wherever you see them
- Read alphabet books with your child
- When you write your child's name, call attention to the letter names
- Ask your child to point to the letters of her/his name as you say them out of order
- Play "I Spy, with my little eye the letter J." Child points to the letter
- *Note; It's to follow your child's interest. Children learn best when letter activities are meaningful and fun. We never want to pressure children to learn letters if they don't appear interested.*

Concepts of Print Activities You Can Do With Your Child

- Help your child notice the spaces between printed words
- Notice the difference between printed words and letters
- Call attention to **where** you start reading/writing (top to bottom, left to right)