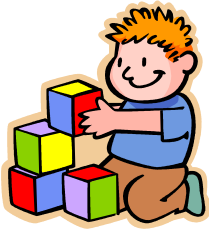


Learning to Read – Phonemic Awareness



Phonemic Awareness is one of the foundation blocks in learning to read.

Phonemic awareness is not phonics – it is the auditory process of identifying the sounds within words. It becomes Phonics when these sounds are matched with letters.

Phonemic Awareness is essential to learning to read in an alphabetic writing system, because letters represent **sounds** or phonemes. Without phonemic awareness, phonics makes little sense

Research has shown that children who are taught to **listen** for and can **hear** the different sounds in words have proved to become stronger readers.

Phonemic Awareness Games to play at home and at school.

1. Play **rhyming games** – find the rhyming words in Nursery Rhymes, Dr Seuss books and other picture books.
2. Clap the syllables in words – el-e-phant; hip-po-pot-a-mus.
3. Play “I spy with my little eye something that begins with “b” (sound not letter name)
4. Play “I Spy” with ending sounds.
5. Play the “**Say it fast**” game – Say a word – one sound at a time and have your child say the word fast eg h/a/t = ‘hat’ This is the phonemic awareness skill of **blending**
6. Play the “**Say the word slowly game**”. Stretch out the sounds in ‘hat’ – h/a/t. This is the skill of **segmenting**.

Research has identified the skills of segmenting and blending as being the most important predictor of reading success in beginning reading.

These games have been incorporated into “Book Bag” activities in Prep and Year 1 but can easily be played in the car on the way to and from school.

Remember that these skills are developmental and that your child may not yet be ready for a particular game – **only play games which are fun and allow your child to experience success**. We all learned to walk and talk at different rates – so too do we learn to read.

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