

## Phonological Awareness

Before being able to read written letters and words, children learn to hear the individual sounds in spoken words. For example, beginning readers with phonemic awareness are able to hear and recognize that the word “cat” is made up of the sounds /c/ /a/ /t/. They can also combine or blend the separate sounds of a spoken word to say the word (“/d/ /o/ /g/ → dog”). Phonological Awareness activities provide practice in segmenting individual sounds in spoken words and blending sounds to say the word.

Use these activities to reinforce and practice phonological awareness skills with your child.

Title	Suggested Grade(s)	Target Skill(s)	Activity
Break the Words Apart	K–2	Segment Sounds in Words, Isolate Beg/Mid/End Sounds in Words, Blending Sounds	Help your child take spoken words apart and put them together. Have your child separate the sounds in simple three-letter words, listening for beginning, middle, and ending sounds. For example, pronounce <i>mom</i> as follows: <i>mm–o–mm</i> . Next, ask your child to blend sounds together to make a word. Say words one sound at a time; for example, you say <i>sh–ee–p</i> and your child says <i>sheep</i> .