

## 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
Word Race	K–2	Isolate Beginning Sound	Help your child pick out the first sound in words, an important step in learning to read. Give your child one minute to name as many objects, people, foods, etc that start with a given sound, such as <i>sss</i> . When the minute is up, have them try to beat their score with another sound, such as <i>rrr</i> . It’s important to say the sound the letter makes rather than the letter’s name. For instance, say <i>mmm</i> rather than <i>em</i> .