

## 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
Count the Sounds	K–2	Segment Sounds in Words, Counting Sounds in Words	Help your child count the number of sounds in words. Have your child find pictures of two- and three-sound words. Put the same number of markers (coins, blocks, etc.) representing the sounds under the picture. Have your child touch a different marker as he or she says each sound. Some ideas for pictures are: fish (3 sounds), lip (3 sounds), shoe (2 sounds), and the number five (3 sounds).