

## 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
Sounds on a Walk	K–2	Segment Sounds in Words, Counting Sounds in Words	Help your child take spoken words apart. Have your child listen for syllables in words. You can play this game while you are walking. Have your child clap the number of syllables in the name of each object you see. Next, have your child separate the sounds in words, listening for beginning, middle, and ending sounds; for example, if your child sees a bird, he or she would say <i>b–ir–d</i> .