

# Free Apps to Promote Phonological Awareness

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**Phonological awareness** is the ability to notice the sound structure of spoken words (Kilpatrick, 2015). It includes recognizing words, recognizing and producing rhymes and segmenting words into syllables and and segmenting and blending onset and rime.

**Phonemic awareness** is the ability to identify, isolate and manipulate language at the individual sound level. It is a part of phonological awareness. It includes isolating, segmenting, blending and manipulating individual sounds (Honig, Diamond & Gutlohn, 2008).

## Letter-Free Phonics



### Phonemic Awareness Bubbles



## Letter-Free Phonics / Phonemic Awareness Bubbles

**Developer:** Preschool University

**Cost:** Free; In-app purchase for \$1.39 for more words.

**Skill:** first sound isolation

**Features:** 4 different games to choose from, clear audio, uses real pictures with few auditory and visual distractions

**Considerations:** Practices single skill; Does not track points or require users to make choices; Child's voice is available but some of the phonemes are distorted or add an "uh" sound ("buh" rather than "b")



## Partners in Rhyme

**Developer:** Preschool University

**Cost:** Free version has 12 sets of 3 rhyming words. Full version is \$2.79 and has 85 sets of rhyming words with more voice options.

**Skill:** Rhyme identification / matching pictures that rhyme

**Benefits:** Clear audio, real pictures with few distractions, immediate feedback, choice of four different games

**Considerations:** Rhyming is more fun with games, songs, and books; keeps track of correct answers: no points goal, can play games indefinitely



## What's Changed? Skill Builder - US Version

**Developer:** Accessible Publishing Systems Pty. Limited

**Cost:** Free, full version is \$5.49

**Skill:** advanced phonemic awareness skills - substitution, addition, deletion

**Benefits:** One of few app that target advanced phonemic awareness skills; has four levels of difficulty with 10 steps at each level; scoring makes it easy to track progress; can have multiple players but need to remember to switch users in Settings

**Considerations:** too difficult for young children and those with poor basic phonemic awareness, best for older students and those with basic phonemic awareness skills

Note: there are three options for the tiles: Color (purely phonemic awareness), standard English (uses letters, phonics), and Readable English (a program that uses symbols to indicate pronunciation). The Readable English option is NOT recommended.