

Phonological and Phonemic Awareness

Description

Phonological awareness is an awareness of the sound structure of words. It includes rhyming, syllables, onset and sound manipulation. It also encompasses phonemic awareness which is an awareness of phonemes in words (i.e., individual sounds).

Why?

Phonological awareness and phonemic awareness are strong predictors of reading and writing ability in the early years. When paired with phonics, they give children the necessary skills for decoding and spelling.

Resources

Phonemic Awareness Activities for the Preschool and Early Elementary Classroom from Reading Rockets.

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/phonemic-activities-preschool-or-elementary-classroom>

This Reading Mama's Reading Readiness Printables- free printables for literacy centres to practice phonemic awareness skills such as rhyming, counting phonemes and syllables.

<https://thisreadingmama.com/reading-readiness-printables/>

Measured Mom's Free Printables for practicing pre-reading skills such as rhyme, syllables and phonemes.

<https://www.themeasuredmom.com/print-2/>

Make, Take and Teach- includes some free resources for phonological and phonemic awareness as well as other literacy activities/printables.

<https://blog.maketaketeach.com/category/literacy/>

Reading Resource

<https://www.readingresource.net/phonemicawarenessactivities.html>



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Teaching Tips

Phonological and phonemic awareness (PA) skills need to be explicitly taught. Students need ample opportunities to practice these skills everyday- even just 10-20 minutes is enough! PA practice can be incorporated into literacy centres or circle time.

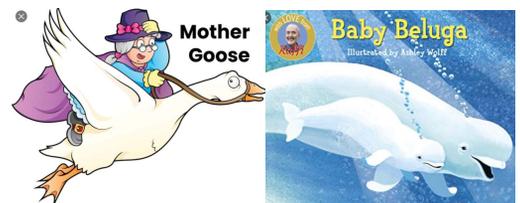
PA can be interwoven into your daily routines through poems, songs, big books or story time.

Phonological skills (e.g., rhyme, syllables) typically develop first. For more information on the sequence of PA development, please refer to the Kindergarten PARS [PA Continuum](#) on the NLPS website.

*REMEMBER- PA skills are a part of **oral language skills**. It is not necessary to incorporate the written letters in instruction/learning.*

The Power of Songs and Stories

Songs and stories that incorporate rhythm and rhyme are fun ways for children to play with language. Songs by Raffi or stories by Dr. Seuss are just some examples. [Good Reads](#) has some great examples of stories that promote PA. And of course, nursery rhymes are a wonderful way to build an awareness of rhyme and other PA skills.



Resources

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Reading Resource- ideas for whole class and individual PA practice

<https://www.readingresource.net/phonemicawarenessactivities.html>