

## INTRODUCTION



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At school your child is engaging in Heggerty Phonological Awareness lessons. **Phonological awareness** allows children to recognize and work with the sounds of language. These activities are sometimes called ear exercises because the focus is on hearing the parts or sounds in words. In the beginning weeks of instruction, your child will be engaging in lessons for "Setting the Stage" to help them learn about listening for sounds. During this time, they will start to develop an understanding of the language play activities they will start participating in. Your child will then start to work with words, syllables, and sounds they hear in words. Your child will not be seeing these words in print during the phonemic awareness lessons.

### Why is Phonological Awareness Important?

Phonological awareness is a strong predictor of reading success. It is especially important at the earliest stages of reading development and is a foundation for reading.

### How Can You Support Phonological Awareness at Home?

Throughout the school year, you will receive newsletters sharing ideas of games or "ear exercises" you can play with your child. Phonological awareness is simple to support at home - all you need is language! Help your child understand that the words they hear in speech are made up of parts and sounds.

You can begin building phonological awareness in your child by:

- ★ Having your child close their eyes and then make a sound with something from around the house (crumpling paper, knocking on the door, banging pans together). Have them guess what you used to make the sound!
- ★ Reciting nursery rhymes
- ★ Reading books with rhyming words
- ★ Playing with alliteration (words that begin with the same sound)
  - Example: Seven silly sisters said surprise!
- ★ Reciting tongue twisters with a focus on individual sounds in words.
  - Example: How much wood would a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

We look forward to supporting you and your child in building foundational literacy skills this school year! In addition to the newsletters you will receive, you can find more support and information on our website and social media pages.

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Visit our website: <https://www.heggerty.org>

View lesson demonstrations: <http://bit.ly/3hqB9Tz>