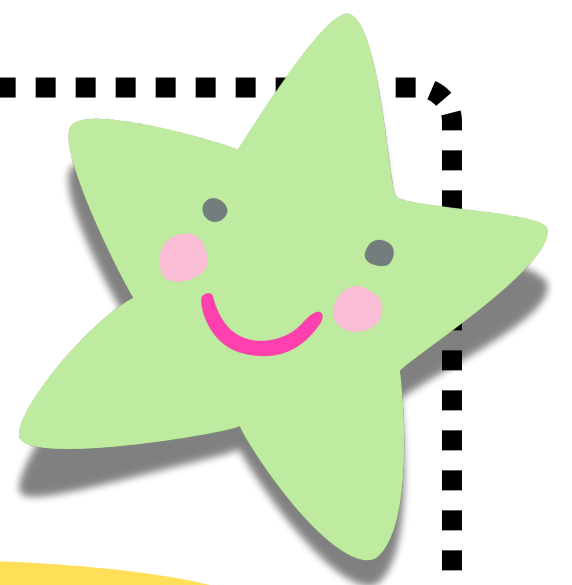


# ACT 20 RESOURCES FOR PHONEMIC AWARENESS AT HOME











We are excited to support you and your child with gaining literacy experiences and skills inside and outside of school. We hope that these resources will provide your family with information and activities about what your child is learning in school, and what pieces they will need to focus on to improve their reading proficiency and skills. We are pleased to work with you in building a family of readers and writers.

As part of the Act 20 legislation, schools are providing parents with information to support their children in the following areas of literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, and fluency. The School District of Janesville is in the process of creating a website for parents as well.

## What is Phonemic Awareness?

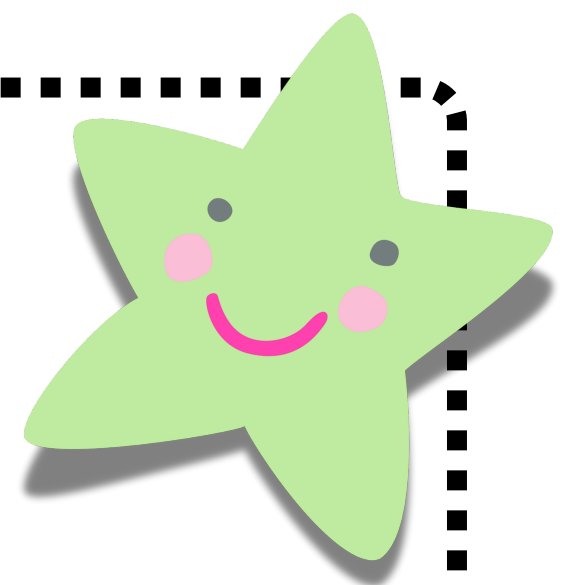
Phonemic awareness is the ability to identify, hear, and manipulate the individual sounds, called phonemes, in spoken words. It is a key foundational skill for learning to read and is a subset of the broader category known as phonological awareness, which also includes skills like recognizing rhymes, syllables, and onsets (beginning sounds) and rimes (ending chunks).

## Online Resources

-  [Starfall](https://www.starfall.com) <https://www.starfall.com>  
Starfall offers engaging phonemic awareness activities that focus on letter sounds and word building through interactive games and songs.
-  [ABCya](https://www.abcya.com) <https://www.abcya.com>  
Provides a range of phonemic awareness games suitable for young children. Activities include sound matching, rhyming, and word creation.
-  [Reading Rockets](https://www.readingrockets.org) <https://www.readingrockets.org>  
Offers articles, tips, and activities on phonemic awareness. A great resource for parents looking for a deeper understanding of how to support their child's literacy skills.
-  [UFLI Parent Hub](http://bit.ly/40Vo7EL) <http://bit.ly/40Vo7EL>  
This collection of web-based language and literacy resources was compiled and curated by UFLI faculty and graduate students.
-  [PBS Kids](https://pbskids.org) <https://pbskids.org>  
Features educational games and videos that incorporate phonics and phonemic awareness, using popular PBS characters to engage children.
-  [Souder and Friends](https://www.souderandfriends.com/activities.php) <https://www.souderandfriends.com/activities.php>  
Join Souder & Friends™ for some fun activities that can be done at home or in the classroom! Click on the links below each title to download the activity plans.
-  [Florida Center for Reading Research \(FCRR\)](https://games.fcrr.org) <https://games.fcrr.org>  
A collection of digital activities for use with pre-kindergarten through 5th grade children.
-  [Home Reading Helper](https://www.homereadinghelper.org/) <https://www.homereadinghelper.org/>  
A resource for families to support their child's development with at-home reading activities, organized by skill and grade level.



# EASY PHONEMIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES TO TRY AT HOME



## Alphabet Knowledge

Practice recognizing and naming all uppercase and lowercase letters in the alphabet. Strong letter recognition builds confidence and encourages engagement in literacy activities.

## Practice Rhyming

Practice rhyming words with these sounds:  
"at" (cat, bat, hat, etc.)  
"ap" (map, nap, lap, etc.)  
"ip" (lip, sip, tip, etc.)  
"op" (hop, bop, top, etc.)

## Rhyme Time

Say a word and ask your child to think of as many rhymes as possible. Turn it into a song or a chant to make it more engaging. Encourage creativity! Even if the word isn't real (nonsense word), it's great practice.

## Blend sounds into words

Blending together the sounds seen or heard in a word in order to create the whole word, for example, the sounds /d/-/o/-/g/ (pause between each sound), make the word "dog".

## Sound Safari

Go around your house or yard and encourage your child to listen carefully and write down the sounds they hear. Together, identify the beginning sound of each item (e.g., "b" for bird, "t" for truck). This game can also be played on a walk in the park or during errands.

## Sound Matching

Gather a variety of objects or pictures. Ask your child to group them by their beginning sounds (e.g., car, cookie, cup). This can be a fun sorting game and helps with sound recognition.

## Mystery Word Game

Say a word but pause between each sound (e.g., c-a-t). This is called segmenting. Ask your child to guess what the word is. This helps with blending sounds together to form words. If blending words is difficult for your child try Successive Blending or Progressive Blending techniques in the following boxes.

## Successive Blending

Successive Blending is a technique where children blend sounds progressively as they hear the next sound. For example, with the word "sand," a child would start with /s/, then blend /a/ to make /sa/, and continue with /n/ to make /san/, finally adding /d/ to say "sand." This method helps build confidence as each part of the word is smoothly integrated with the next.

## Progressive Blending

Progressive Blending involves integrating sounds while gradually increasing complexity. It starts with simple consonant-vowel combinations and progresses to more complex patterns. For example, a child might blend /s/ and /i/ to form "si," then add /t/ for "sit." This scaffolded approach supports children in managing more complex word structures as they advance.

## Storytime Sound Hunt

Read a book with your child. Ask them to listen for words that start with a specific sound. For example, "Listen for words that start with 'm'."

## Clap the Syllables

Say a word and clap out the syllables with your child. For example, "butterfly" would be three claps: but-ter-fly. Start with simple words and gradually work up to more complex ones.

## Before and After

Pick a letter from the alphabet and see if your child can name the letter that comes right AFTER that letter in the alphabet. See if they can name the letter that comes right BEFORE that letter in the alphabet.