

Phonological Activities for the Car

1. **I Spy in the Car** Say, "I spy something in the car that begins with /s/." Let your child guess the object. For /s/ it might be seat or seatbelt. Take turns being the caller and the finder.

2. **Count the words.** Have your child make two fists. Say a sentence and then have your child say it with you. As each word is said, tell your child to put up one finger. Count how many words are in the sentence. This activity helps your child build an awareness of words.

3. **Clap the syllables.** Take #2 a step further. Clapping is a fun hands-on way to determine parts (syllables) of a word. Say a word and have your child clap the parts of the word.

4. **Listen to music.** Create a new play list of music for the car. When traveling play these 12 phonological awareness songs in the car. You can make this a joint activity by having everyone sing along with the music.

- "A" is for Apple by Teresa Carpio (**alphabet**)
- C is for Cookie by Sesame Street (**alphabet**) This song is all about the letter "c". We have fun singing it and substituting other letters and words to go with each letter.
- ABC The Alphabet Song by Dora the Explorer (**alphabet**) It is a short and clear song of the original tune.
- Elmo's Rap Alphabet by Sesame Street (**alphabet**)
- Letter Sounds by Barbara Milne (**letter sounds**)
- Singing Long Vowel Sounds by Radha (**long vowel letter sounds**)
- Old McDonald Had Some Vowels by The Kiboomers (**vowel sounds**)
- Down by the Bay by Eric Litwin and Michael Levine (**rhyming**)
- Fun With the Rhyme Time Band by Hap Palmer (**rhyming**)
- Tongue Twisters by Jack Hartmann (**alliteration**)
- I Wrote This Song by [Nancy Kopman](#) (**phoneme substitution**)
- Let the S Go by Caspar Babypants (**phoneme substitution**)
- Apples and Bananas by Raffi (**phoneme substitution**)

5. **Play rhyming games.** Example: "This animal says meow" (cat) "This animal sleeps upside down" (bat) "What are some other words that rhyme with cat and bat?"

"What is an animal that rhymes with WIG?" etc

6. **Play with beginning sounds.** Have your child name something they see outside their window. Repeat the word and ask, "What sound do you hear at the beginning of _____?" Then, say the word again and let your child respond with the correct beginning sound.

7. **Create tongue twisters.** Alliteration is the repetition of a sound in a sentence. It is also known as a tongue twister. Name the color of the car in front of you and determine the beginning sound of that

color. Then, create a tongue twister with that same sound. Let each person in the car try to say the tongue twister. Who can say it the fastest?

Red racers rode recklessly round and round.

8. **“Stretch it Like a Rubber Band”**. For this activity you will say a short word such as *bed*, *fun*, or *cat*. Have your child use their hands to stretch the word out like a rubber band and say each sound he hears in the word.

10. **“Name That Sound.”** This game involves listening and speaking. Ask your child to be very quiet and listen for sounds on your trip. When she hears a sound, have her name it. For example, she might hear the beep-beep of a horn. Then, have her tell you the beginning or ending sound of the object that made that sound. In this example the beginning sound is /h/ and the ending sound is /n/.

Play these phonological awareness games in the car to help your child develop pre-reading skills!