



Resource Guide

FIRST SOUND MATCHING

What is first sound matching?	First Sound Matching is the ability to isolate the first sound in a word and match it to the same first sound of another word, when listening and discriminating between two or more words. First Sound Matching is a beginning skill in phonemic awareness.
Isolate the first sound in a word	Isolating the first sound is the beginning of phoneme segmentation which requires a word to be divided into the onset and rime. The onset is the initial sound of the word. The rime contains the ending sounds beginning with the vowel. Ex: In the word stick, /st/ is the <i>onset</i> and /ick/ is the <i>rime</i>. Use an onset-rime sound card with two squares. Have the child place a tile in the first square while saying the onset of the word. Then have them place a tile in the second square while saying the rime of the word. Saying the sounds while using a tile for representation will support multisensory learning.
Comparing initial sounds	Once children can isolate the initial sound, offer another word for comparison, having the child decide if the two words have the same initial sound. Ex: Show a picture of a cat and a cake. Ask the child if these two words have the same first sound, yes or no? This will begin the child's ability to discriminate between sounds.
Additional comparisons	After comparing words with the same initial sound, you can then begin a comparison of three or more picture words, finding the two with the same initial sound. Ex: Show a picture of a bed, bear, and dog. Ask the child which two pictures have the same first sound?
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Benchmark Milestones

FIRST SOUND MATCHING

Benchmark milestones are specific goals that children are expected to achieve at certain stages of their early literacy development

BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

Pre-K	MOY & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can isolate and match limited or no initial sounds in CVC words Ex: <i>toy, top, bed</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can isolate and match limited sounds in closed syllable words Ex: <i>bed, bear, chair</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can isolate and match initial sounds in short and long vowel words Ex: <i>gate, go, snow</i>
Kindergarten	BOY, MOY, & EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can isolate and match limited or no initial sounds in short and long vowel words Ex: <i>gate, go, snow</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can isolate and match limited initial sounds in short and long vowel words Ex: <i>gate, go, snow</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can isolate and match initial sounds in short and long vowel multisyllable words Ex: <i>waving, wagging, eating</i>