

Phonological Awareness Bracelet

Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize words, syllables, rhymes, and to manipulate sounds. **This is a prerequisite skill for reading.** All phonological awareness activities are oral and require no print. It is all about the sounds. There are several ways you can use this bracelet as a learning tool.

Word awareness: (beads=words)

-Make up a sentence and say it to your child.

-Your child can use their bracelet to count the number of words in the sentence.

-For every word, have your child move one of the beads. (Start off with simple sentences and work your way up. They will not use all the beads).

-**Examples:** "I like to laugh." (4 words=4 beads). "The dog ran down the street." (6 words=6 beads) "My favorite game to play is basketball." (7 words=7 beads).

-Extension: Students can make up their own sentences and then count the words.

Syllables: (beads=syllables)

-A syllable is an uninterrupted segment of sound, or as I tell students "the number of beats in a word." Sometimes we clap them out or put our hands under our chins to figure out how many syllables are in a word. Being able to divide a word into syllables helps with reading and also with spelling.

-Give your child a word.

-For every word, have your child move a bead representing the number of syllables.

-**Examples:** "notebook" (note-book: 2 syllables=2 beads) "puzzle" (puz-zle: 2 syllables=2 beads)

"alligator" (al-li-ga-for: 4 syllables=4 beads)

Segmenting individual sounds

-Give your child a word.

-For every sound they hear, they will move one of the beads.

-Examples: "map" (m-a-p: 3 sounds=3 beads) "chip" (ch-i-p: 3 sounds=3 beads) "take" (t-a-k: 3 sounds=3 beads) "gleam" (g-l-e-m: 4 sounds=4 beads) "started" (s-t-ar-t-i-d 6 sounds=6 beads)

***Students can also use the bracelet as a tool when writing. Sometimes beginning writers need a visual tool to help them know what word or sound they want to write. For example, if your child wanted to write "I like to play with my friends." They could use the bracelet and figure out they need 7 words in that sentence. For every word they would move a bead until they have 7 beads.

OR they could use the bracelet to help them write the individual words. Maybe play is a tricky word to write. They would use the bracelet to segment the sounds, 8, and then write those sounds. Or friends might be a hard word. The student would segment the sounds with the beads: f-r-i-e-n-d-s and then write the letters that correspond to each sound. Remember, for beginning writers, misspellings are okay. Students will write the sounds they hear.