

Building Phonemic Awareness at Home

Supporting spoken sound recognition to build strong early readers



🎯 WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. It is done entirely through listening and speaking—no printed letters or reading involved!

📖 KEY SKILLS TO PRACTICE

- **Rhyming:** Recognizing and producing words that end with the same sound (e.g., *cat, hat, mat*).
- **Blending:** Combining individual spoken sounds together to form a whole word (e.g., hearing /c/ - /a/ - /t/ and saying *cat*).
- **Segmenting:** Breaking a spoken word down into its individual sounds (e.g., hearing *dog* and saying /d/ - /o/ - /g/).
- **Phoneme Manipulation:** Adding, deleting, or substituting sounds in words (e.g., changing the /c/ in *cat* to /b/ to make *bat*).

🏠 HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- **Play Word Games:** Practice blending and segmenting sounds out loud during car rides or everyday activities.
- **Sing Songs & Rhymes:** Recite nursery rhymes, fingerplays, and rhyming songs together to build awareness of speech sounds.
- **Keep It Oral & Fun:** Focus on listening and playing with sounds—remember, phonemic awareness can be done in the dark!

🏠 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more ideas on supporting your child with reading skills, visit our district literacy website:

<https://www.ccsdut.org/programs/literacy/early-literacy-skills>

