

A Parent's Guide to Phonemic Awareness



plus 8 Fun Activities
Parents Can Try at Home!

By Deedee Wills
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Dear Friend,

We know that parents are our partners in education. This resource will help strengthen your partnership as it guides parents in phonemic awareness.

I love combining fun games and activities with powerful instruction. Marcia Tate states in her book, Worksheets Don't Grow Dendrites the following when it comes to games:

- Games put the brain in a positive state.
- When students are engrossed in game playing, the stress is lessened and memory for content is increased.
- Boys are especially motivated by games.

You can look for more fun activities on my [blog](#) and in my [Teachers Pay Teachers store](#).

Thank you for signing up for my newsletter. Stay tuned as I continue to share ideas and resources.

Sincerely,
Deedee Wills

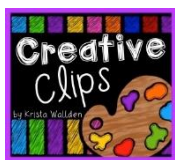
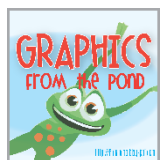
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Dear Parents,

Your child is on their literacy journey and there are many components that are essential to reading success.

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is done **orally** and **without print**. It is the knowledge that words are made of up individual sounds. It is also the knowledge of how to manipulate these sounds: blending sounds, rhyming, syllables, segmenting sounds.

Phonics

Phonics is the connection between sounds and letter symbols. Students start by learning the individual sounds letters can make. Then students progress toward looking for patterns within words and how combinations of letters produce various sounds.

Fluency

Fluency is a reader's ability to read with expression, accuracy, and speed. Not only do students need to be able to recognize and decode words, they must also understand the words as they are being read.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary development is a life long process. There are two ways to teach vocabulary. Explicit instruction happens with the meaning is told (teacher, parent, dictionary). Another method is using context clues which are "hints" contained in a text that help a reader figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word.

Comprehension Reading

Comprehension is understanding what a text is all about. It requires the reader to combine their knowledge of phonics, use of fluency, their understanding of the text vocabulary, and their use of prior knowledge to develop meaning.



Children develop phonological awareness at different ages. The stages of development are listed below.

Sound deletion

Say BOAT without the B.

Sound substitution

Change the H in HAT to B (BAT)..

Segment sounds

Say the sounds you hear in SHIP.

Blending sounds

Guess this word: S-U-N.

Syllable deletion

Can you say window without the win?

Isolate beginning sound

Say the first sound in hat.

Produce Rhyme

Can you think of a word that rhymes with car?

Blends (onset and rime)

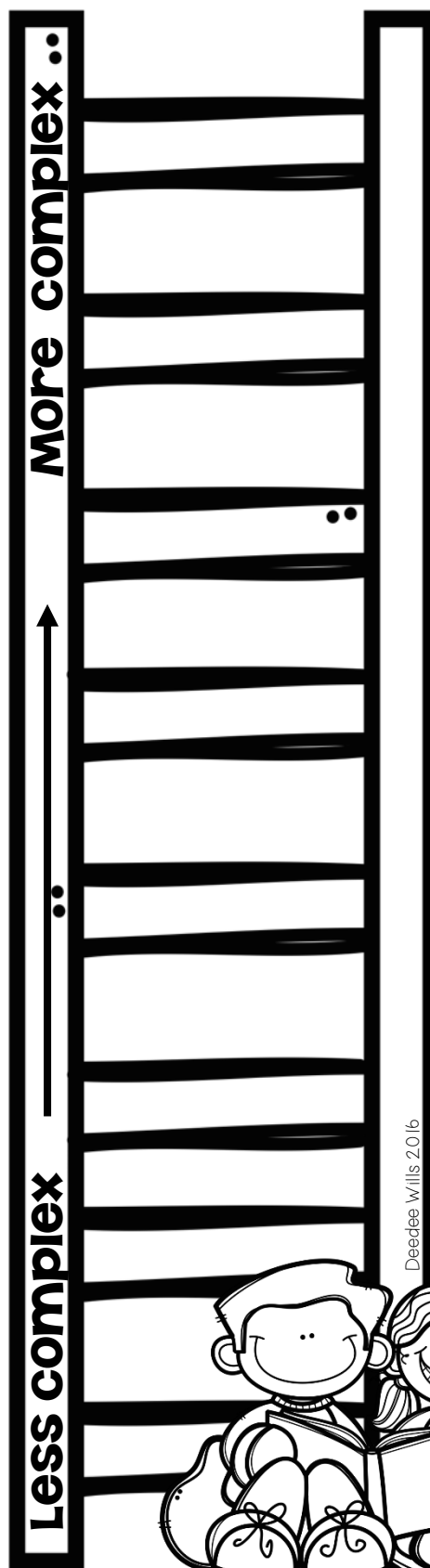
Guess this word: C-AT

Syllables

Can you clap the syllables?

Recognizing Rhyme

Do these words rhyme?



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Here are a few fun activities you can do at home with your child.

I Spy



Play an "I Spy" game.

"I spy something that rhymes with _____."

"I spy something that starts with the /b/ sound."

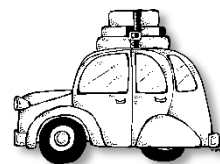
Take turns.

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I'm going on a trip...

"I'm going on a trip and I am bringing things that start with the /b/ sound/."

Take turns thinking of things {ball, brush, bat). Then switch to a new sound.

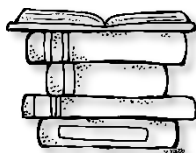


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Read a book!

Stop by your school or local library. Rhyming books are plentiful! Read the text and pause before the rhyme. Have your child fill in the missing rhymes:

Books by Dr. Seuss or Eric Carle have fun rhymes. Don't forget to ask the librarian. They are so knowledgeable.



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Magazine sort

Sort pictures in a magazine by the number of syllables they have. You can also look for pictures that start with a particular sound.



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Draw it!

Say the sounds and have your child draw the word.

Easier: c/at (2 parts)

Harder: c/a/t (3 parts)

Challenge: n/e/s/t (4 parts)

This could be done with a pencil, crayon, or even shaving cream in the bathtub!

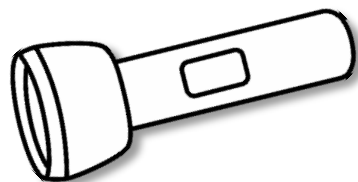


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Spotlight

Turn out the lights and shine a flashlight around the room. Your child can clap out the syllables in the word:

Example: Television, pillow, sofa, dog, table...



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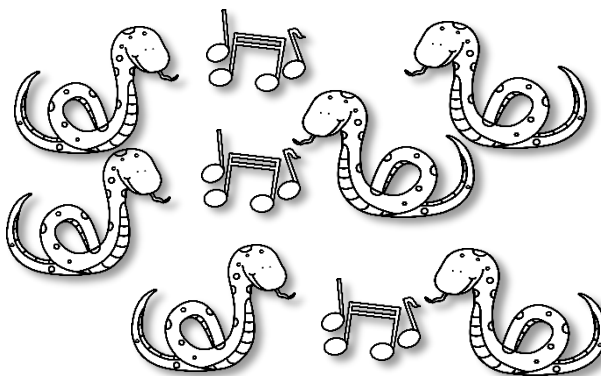
So silly!

Help your child create silly sentences!

Example:

Six sweet snakes sang songs.

Two tiny turtle twirled together.



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Riddle me this!

You will say a word riddle and your child will solve it.

Example:

What rhymes with hand but starts with /s/?

What rhymes with book but starts with /h/?



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