

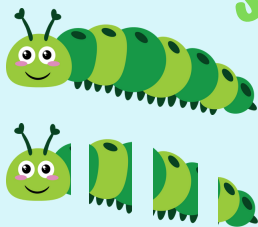
Phonological Awareness

What is phonological awareness? A listening skill. It is being aware that words are made up of sounds and sound patterns, and later, the ability to use sounds to make words.

Why is it important to start learning in preschool? Developing phonological awareness at preschool prepares children connect these sounds to letters. This is an important skill to read and write.

Which skills should preschool aged children have? The phonological awareness skills that many children develop during preschool include the following areas:

Syllable blending and segmenting



Syllables are the 'beats' in words.

Blending is when you push the beats together to make a word e.g. *ca/ter/pi/llar = caterpillar*, *jump/er = jumper*.

Segmenting is breaking the word into beats e.g. *caterpillar = ca/ter/pi/llar*, *table = ta/ble*.

Rhyming



Rhyming words are words with same group of sounds at the end of a word e.g. **cat, hat, bat, mat**.

Children first learn to hear words that rhyme, and later think of new words that rhyme

e.g. *adult = "red, bed"*, *child = "shed"*.

Beginning (first) sounds



Being aware of the beginning sound in words

e.g. 'horse' starts with a /h/ sound (not letter name), 'Sally' starts with a /s/ sound.

Note that these three skills are only part of phonological awareness, if you would like to know the next skills, please contact your preschool.

