

# **Phonemic Awareness**

Phonemic awareness is hearing, identifying, and manipulating individual sounds in words. It is a foundational skill for reading. Use these fun and simple activities to help your child become aware of different sounds in words!

## **1. Environmental Sounds Game**

**Objective:** To build listening and sound discrimination skills.

- 1. Sit with your child in a quiet room.
- 2. Play or imitate different sounds (e.g., clapping, tapping a table, ringing a bell, or opening a door). Encourage the child to copy the sound with the same rhythm and speed.
- 3. Ask your child to guess the sound they heard. In case the child is still learning different animals or objects, then you can also combine this step with picture cards.
- 4. Make it fun by praising their effort and saying, "Great job! That was the bell ringing."

*Tip:* Take this activity outdoors! Listen for birds, cars, or dogs barking.

# 2. Clap the Syllables

**Objective:** To help your child understand that words are made up of smaller parts (syllables).

- 1. Say a word slowly (e.g., "ba-na-na").
- 2. Clap for each syllable as you say it.
- 3. Ask your child to clap along with you.
- 4. Try other words like "ap-ple," "car," or "sun-shine."



*Bonus:* Turn it into a game by asking them to guess how many claps a word will have before you say it.

## 3. Sound Treasure Hunt

**Objective:** To help your child identify beginning sounds in words.

- 1. Choose a sound, like "S." Say, "Let's find things that start with the /s/ sound."
- 2. Look around the house for objects that start with the chosen sound (e.g., sock, spoon, soap).
- 3. Place the objects in a basket or box as your child finds them.
- 4. Praise your child's effort: "Wow, you found a sock! That starts with /s/."

Variation: Repeat with other sounds like /b/, /m/, or /t/.

#### 4. What's the First Sound?

**Objective:** To help your child hear the initial sound in a word.

- 1. Say a simple word like "cat."
- 2. Ask, "What's the first sound you hear in 'cat'?"
- 3. Encourage your child to say the sound: "/k/."
- 4. Try other simple words like "dog," "sun," and "ball."

Tip: If your child struggles, emphasize the first sound: "C-C-Cat."

### 5. Rhyme Time Fun

**Objective:** To develop awareness of rhyming words.

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- 1. Say two words (e.g., "cat" and "hat") and ask, "Do these words rhyme?"
- 2. If they rhyme, clap together. If not, shake your heads and say, "No, they don't rhyme."
- 3. Give your child a chance to come up with rhyming words (they can be silly!).
- 4. Example: Say, "What rhymes with 'dog'?" Encourage responses like "fog" or even nonsense words like "wog."

## 6. Sound Stretching Game

Objective: To help your child hear individual sounds in words.

- 1. Say a word slowly, stretching the sounds: "Mmmm-a-t."
- 2. Ask your child to repeat the sounds with you.
- 3. Blend the sounds together: "What word do those sounds make?" (Answer: "mat").
- 4. Try other simple words like "c-a-t" (cat) or "p-i-g" (pig).

# 7. Sing and Play

**Objective:** To make sound awareness enjoyable through songs.

- 1. Sing nursery rhymes like "Baa Baa Black Sheep" or "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."
- 2. Emphasize rhyming words as you sing.
- 3. Ask your child to repeat the rhyming words after you.

Example: In "Baa Baa Black Sheep," highlight "sheep" and "keep."



## **Tips for Parents**

- Keep activities short (5-10 minutes) to match your child's attention span.
- Use a cheerful tone and praise often to build confidence.
- Repeat activities regularly to reinforce skills.
- Follow your child's pace; don't rush through the steps.

With these simple activities, you'll help your child build the skills they need to identify and play with sounds in words—a big step toward becoming a confident reader!

For more information feel free to book your session by emailing us at <u>ahujataniya89@gmail.com</u> or directly call +91-721-786-1476.