

Playing with sounds

(Home-school Connection: Phonological Awareness Games)

- Read books and poems that focus on the rhythm of language and rhyme. Books like “Sheep in a Jeep” help children pay attention to sounds in words.
- Create fun games to play, like “Clap your hands when you hear two words that rhyme.”
- **Play “Guess My Word.”** “I’m thinking of a word that rhymes with _____. Can you guess my word?”
- **Have a “Sound” scavenger hunt.** Give children a bag and ask them to find as many things around the house that begin with a certain sound.
- Play **“I Spy”** with beginning sounds of words: “I spy with my little eye something that begins with a /t/,” (*the sound, not the letter!*).
- Have your child guess a word that you sound out slowly (“ssssssuuuuunnnnnn”).
- Give your child 3-5 blocks, beads, bingo chips or similar items. Say a word and have your child move an object for each sound in the word.
- **Play “Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” with sounds.** Say a word and have children touch their head for the first sound, shoulders for the second sound, and knees for the third, while saying each sound.
- **Jump for sounds.** Say a word and have your child jump for each sound in the word while saying the sound.
- **Slinky stretch.** Pretend you are holding a slinky. Stretch out a word slowly (“ssssssssssuuuuuuuuunnnnnnnnnn”), then CLAP! and say it fast (“sun!”).
- **I’m Going to California**
“I’m going to California and I’m bringing . . . a cat, a cactus, a caterpillar, custard, etc.”
“I’m going to the beach and I’m bringing . . . a bear, a ball, a boat, beans, etc.”
In this game you “bring” things that start with the same beginning sound. As an extra challenge, you can also make this a memory game, where you keep adding onto a list that you make together.
- **Word Chain** Say a word, then the next person says a word that begins with the ending sound of the previous word. For example, cat - tab - bar - ram
- **Khan Academy Kids** An app for kids that supports phonological awareness along with symbol recognition and other important skills
- **Most importantly, enjoy playing with sounds together!**

Home-School Connection - Phonological Awareness Games

Here are games you can play at home to support your child's ability to hear and manipulate sounds in words!

Guess My Word

"I'm thinking of a word that rhymes with _____. Can you guess my word?"

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"I'm going to the beach and I'm bringing . . . a bear, a ball, a boat, beans, etc."

In this game you take turns "bringing" things that start with the same beginning sound. As an extra challenge, you can also make this a memory game, where you keep adding onto a list that you make together.

I-Spy with Sounds

"I spy with my little eye something that starts with /m/ [the sound, not the letter]."

Word Chain

One person says a word and then the next person says a word that starts with the ending sound of the previous word. For example, "Cat," "Trampoline," "Nice," "Snake," etc.

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