

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

At school your child is engaging in Heggerty Phonological Awareness lessons. Over the next 2 weeks, your child will be working with syllables. A **syllable** is a part of a word that contains a vowel sound. For example, the word *understand* has 3 syllables: un-der-stand. Each syllable (part) has one vowel sound. Your child will learn to blend (put together), segment (pull apart), and substitute (change) syllables within a word. One additional skill your child will be working with is **isolating phonemes**, where they will identify the first or last sound they hear in a word. Research tells us, *"phoneme awareness performance is a strong predictor of long-term reading and spelling success, and it can predict literacy performance more accurately than variables such as intelligence, vocabulary knowledge, and socioeconomic status"* (Gillon, 2018)

Phonological awareness activities take place orally and are about having fun with language play. Therefore, there is no need for any writing or reading during this practice. Just have fun with the sounds in words!

Consider using the following activities at home with your child:

- ★ **Punch it Out!** Give your child a word from the list below and have them punch their fist up in the air when they say the last sound.

float gloBe dreaM neCK hiVe froZe

- ★ Can you **blend** (put together) these syllables to make a word?"

in - sect → insect stu - dent → student gym - nas - tics → gymnastics

- ★ **Be a Ninja!** Say a word and have your child act like a ninja by chopping words into their syllables. Say, "Can you segment (chop) this word into its individual syllables?"

afternoon → af - ter - noon member → mem - ber fantastic → fan - tas - tic

- ★ **Switch-A-Roo!** Can you tell me the new word I can make if I substitute (change) one syllable in a word to a new one?

Say turkey → change /tur/ to /mun/ and the word is? → monkey

Say longer → change /long/ to /quick/ and the word is? → quicker

Say monster → change /mon/ to /ham/ and the word is? → hamster

- ★ Books to enjoy together: Look for these books at the library that support syllable and sound awareness!

- *The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds
- *Tanka Tanka Skunk!* by Steve Webb
- *Don't Be Silly, Mrs. Millie* by Judy Cox



Make it Multi-sensory! Use legos, blocks, magnets or tiles to represent the syllables! For example, use blocks to represent syllables. Push 2 blocks away from each other to segment syllables or push them together to blend syllables into a whole word. View our lesson demonstrations to see how using our hand motions can support your child. [Heggerty Phonemic Awareness - YouTube](#)

Visit our website: <https://www.heggerty.org>