

Phonological Awareness Tips for Home



Many of our students have some gaps in their Phonological Awareness which means that they find word and sound/letter manipulation challenging. Having strong Phonological Awareness skills supports reading, spelling and writing development. Here are some activities you can do with your child at home to support their Phonological Awareness.

- Choose a letter/sound and ask your child to think of 5-10 words that start with that letter.
e.g. "Can you think of 5 words that begin with the 'm' sound?"
- Make up silly sentences together that include words with the same sound
e.g. "Sammy sliced some salami to add to his slimy sandwich"
- Ask your child to blend sounds within words together and tell you the word
e.g. "Can you tell me what this word is d/o/g?" Child replies with "dog" When you do this use your fingers to show/count each sound within the word
- Ask your child to segment (pull apart) words verbally.
e.g. "Can you tell me the sounds that are in the word "black" Child replies with "b/l/a/ck" and shows you with their fingers that this word has 4 sounds in it.
- Play rhyming games together
e.g. "Let's think of all the words that rhyme with 'go'" "go, no, show, flow, row, etc" **or** "tell me a word that rhymes with 'catch'" Child replies "hatch/match"
- All of our students are taught how to use Elkonin Boxes during their tutoring sessions. Have them use these for sounding out words when spelling sentences for their homework or writing at home. Carefully isolating the sounds within words assists in accuracy when spelling unknown words
- Ask your child to verbally isolate sounds within words, particularly the beginning, medial and end sounds.
e.g. "can you tell me the first sound in the word 'bake'? **or** what is the middle sound in the word 'cat'? **or** what sound do you hear at the end of the word 'cook'?"
- Play I-Spy to find objects around the room that start with a particular letter/sound.
e.g. "I spy with my little eye something that starts with F"
- Play the shopping game together to help build memory and vocabulary
e.g. "I went to the shop and I bought a chocolate bar" Next person says "I went to the shop and I bought a chocolate bar and a banana" Next person says "I went to the shop and bought a chocolate bar, a banana and some carrots" etc.
- Play the "which word doesn't belong" game
e.g. "Which word doesn't belong – cat, milk, hat?" to focus on rhyme **or** which word doesn't belong – car, bus, house" to focus on vocabulary and word groups
- Practice manipulating sounds within words by asking your child to remove a sound within a word.
e.g. "Say hat – now change the h to s – what is that new word? (sat) Do this by changing the beginning, middle or end sound in a word.