

Holiday Treats

Phonological Awareness



Understanding Phonological and Phonemic Awareness

Phonological and phonemic awareness skills develop on a continuum over many years and are a critical component of reading. Without these foundational skills, children will not be able to decode written English (or any language that uses a phonetic alphabet). Children should be given lots of opportunities to practice these skills through the preschool and elementary years.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Word
Awareness

Syllable
Awareness

Onset-Rime
Awareness

Phonemic
Awareness

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Phonological awareness is an umbrella term that covers a variety of skills needed to hear the different chunks of sounds in speech. This ranges from the ability to distinguish individual words in a sentence, syllables in a word, rhymes, sounds in a word, as well as the ability to isolate the position of different sounds within a word. It also covers the ability to segment and blend these chunks of sounds.

PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Phonemic awareness is a subset of phonological awareness. It refers to the ability to recognize and manipulate individual phonemes. Phonemes are the individual sounds of a language. This involves isolating the individual sounds within words, moving the sounds around, substituting them, and blending them back together again.

Poem

Activity: Learn the Poem

Sing or chant this song as a group many times until the children have learned it. Show them how to use a pointer (or their finger) to point to each word as they sing.

Activity: Isolate the Words

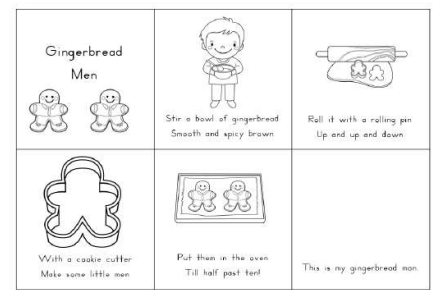
Read one of the sequencing sentence cards and have the child place a block or other object on the table for each word they hear in the sentence.

Activity: Substitute Words

Read one of the sequencing sentence cards and omit the last word. Have the child suggest alternative words to use.

Extension: Sequencing

Sequence the cards or bind the cards together to make into an early reader. Children can color, cut and sequence the cards to make their own booklet.



Rhyming Riddles



Activity

Line up the picture cards and name each image to ensure that the child knows what it is.

Read a riddle card and have the child complete the rhyme. If they can't, offer a clue by saying the first sound (this is called the onset) and have them complete the word (the rest of the word is called the rime).

If the child's ear is not ready for rhyming yet, you can provide the rhyming word. For example: "I rhyme with free. I am a tree. Free, tree. They rhyme." Using this vocabulary is a simple way to introduce the concept of rhyming.

Skill: Segmenting Syllables

Syllable Sorting



Activity

Read the word and clap the syllables. Have the child place the card on the correct mat.

1 Syllable: bell, spoon, elf, bowl, tree, light

2 Syllables: mixer, apron, candy, cocoa, cupcake, holly

Beginning Sound Matching: Feed the Animals!



Bear-Bell
Turtle-Tree
Reindeer-Wreath
Snail-Santa
Elephant-Elf
Cat-Candy cane
Ladybug- Light
Horse-Holly
Giraffe-Gingerbread Boy

Activity

Line up the animal cards at the top of the rug or table and name them. Line up the cookie cards in random order at the bottom of the rug or table and name them. As you name the words, emphasize the initial sound. Match the animal cards to the cookies that start with the same sound.

Variation: Use these cards in your I-Spy basket. Distribute the cards among a small group of children, naming each card and emphasizing the initial sound as you do so. Say “I spy something that starts with the sound...” and have child identify it.

Phoneme isolation is a more advanced skill than many people think. The child needs to be able to chunk the sounds in words quite well in order to hear an isolated phoneme (sound). An important note about this stage: ***we will be matching phonemes (sounds) only and not letters.***

Ending Sounds: I Spy Bingo



Activity

Four bingo mats have been provided but I prefer to play this game with just one or two children at a time. You will need some sort of tokens to cover the pictures. Pompoms, buttons, shells, and bingo chips will work well.

Identify each picture and its ending sound with the players to ensure they know what they are. Draw a card and read the instructions. The players have to find the correct picture and cover it with a token. Show them the card so they can see if they covered the correct picture. Our Bingo ritual is to say “Did you get it right?” in a singsong voice as the caller shows the card. We always allow the players to correct their work if they didn’t get it right. Continue with all the cards until the board is covered. When the board is covered, the players may call out “Bingo!”

These boards are designed such that all players will complete the board at the same time. This allows you to play the game without having any winners. If you want to make it a little more competitive, you can call out Bingo when you complete a row or column.

Skill: Isolating Final Phonemes (Bonus)

Ending Sounds: Which One Doesn't Belong



Activity

To play, name each image and identify the final sounds. Cover up the picture that has a different final sound. You can use a variety of objects as covers. We use little stones. Pompoms and felt squares work well too.

The child needs to be quite adept at isolating initial sounds before she will be able to isolate the final sounds. I also recommend doing I-Spy variations with ending sounds multiple times with the child before introducing this particular activity.

House – ~~Mixer~~ – Mouse
Candy – Holly – ~~Mitt~~
Lollipop – ~~Apron~~ – Gumdrop
Cupcake – Whisk – ~~Ornament~~
~~Elf~~ – Bowl – Bell
Santa – Spatula – ~~Wreath~~
Candy cane – Spoon – ~~Dog~~
Light – ~~Gingerbread boy~~ – Hat

Sorting Middle Sounds



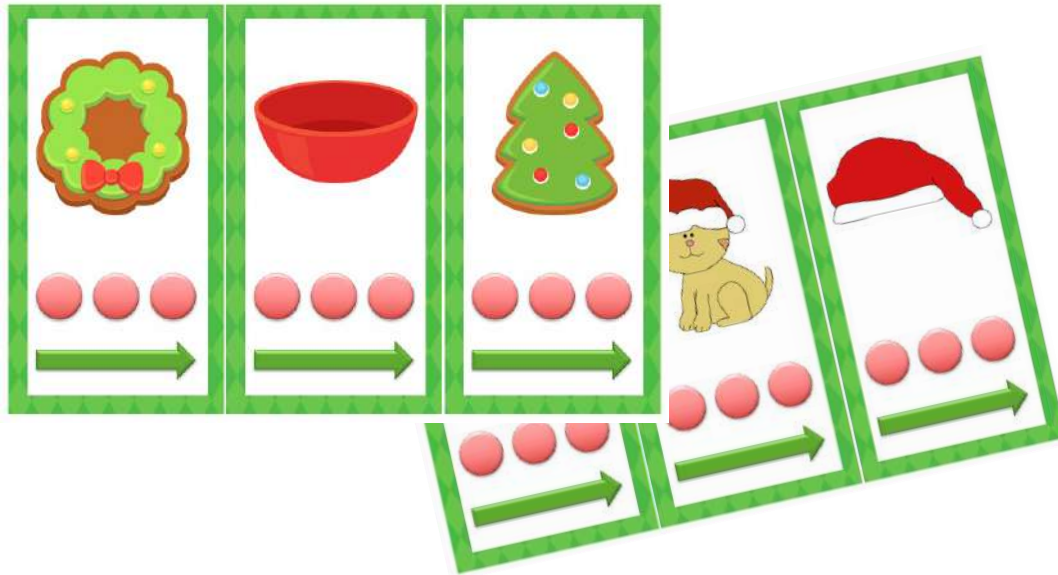
Activity

Isolating middle sounds is the most complex phoneme isolating skill. The child should be fairly competent at isolating beginning and ending sounds before doing this activity.

Line up the sorting mats and identify the sound of each vowel. Pick out a picture card and say its name, emphasizing the middle sound. Place on or below the correct mat.

Tip: Stick one identifying picture card on each mat to help your students who do not recognize the letters.

Point and Slide Cards



Activity

Say the name of the picture. Then, touch the dots as you say each sound in isolation. Slide your finger across the arrow and say the complete word again. If desired, use tokens such as beads or pompoms instead of pointing.

Important note: Again, we are working with SOUNDS ONLY, not letters. Many of the words used have many letters but consist of only 2-3 sounds.

Skill: Phoneme Substitution

What's the New Word?



Activity

Phoneme manipulation is the most advanced phonological awareness skill.

Distribute the picture cards among a group of children, or line them up along the bottom of a rug or table. Read one of the label cards. Have the child identify the correct picture. Place the picture and label card along the top of the table/rug.

E.g. "Mouth. Change /th/ to /s/. What's the new word?" Child says "Mouse" and finds the picture of the mouse.

12 cards are provided, four each for substituting the **beginning**, **end**, and **middle** sounds.



Trillium Montessori

[COURSES](#) | [FREE RESOURCES](#) | [SHOP](#) 

Thank you for your purchase! I hope this resource saves you time and your students find the activities engaging! If you need any assistance, please contact support@trilliummontessori.org and we will help you resolve your issue as quickly as possible.

-Seemi

Copyright and Terms of Use

©Seemi Abdullah from TrilliumMontessori.org

All rights reserved. This product is bound by copyright laws. Redistributing, editing, selling, or posting this item or any part thereof is strictly forbidden without the express written permission of the author.

YOU MAY

- Use this product for personal use or for your own classroom
- Make multiple copies to use for your own classroom
- Save this file to your personal or school computer
- Purchase additional licenses if you would like to give a copy of the file or printouts to colleagues or others

YOU MAY NOT

- Resell this product or copy or modify this product and sell as your own
- Make copies to distribute to colleagues or others
- Post this file anywhere online or on a shared network where it can be accessed by individuals who have not purchased a license to use it
- Share this product with others without purchasing additional licenses

Fonts and Graphics

Fonts and graphics used with permission. Photos from the public domain or used with permission.

