

Suggestions To Help Build Your Child's Phonemic Awareness Skills

Play with letters (letter cards, magnetic letters on the fridge, etc.): Have your child show you the letters they are learning in school. Ask your child to tell you what the letter is and what sound it makes. Say some words for your child that begin with the letter you are talking about. See if your child can think of another word that begins with that letter.

Silly Mistakes: Read a familiar poem or story...but make any kind of silly mistake that will be obvious to your child. For example,

- You might **replace a word with nonsense:** Jack and Jill went up the pickle.
- Or **say the words in the wrong order:** The first little pig built a straw of house.
- Or even **swap sounds:** The clock struck one, the mouse ran down, Dickory, Hickory, Hock.

Ask your child to catch the error (Silly mom or dad)!

Make a rhyme: Help your child fill in some new rhymes:

- A tree with a –bee. (or a C, key, knee...)
A boy holding a –toy
A stick in a –zick
A cat with a –bat
A man on a –can
A bug and a –hug
A picture of a –kicture
(The focus is on sound, not meaning. Nonsense or make-believe words are fine).
- Sing to the tune of *Farmer In The Dell*
A tree with a bee, a tree with a bee,
Hi Ho the Derry-O, a tree with a bee

Clap the (Syllables) Beats:

- Find something in the room or out the window (or think of something we see in the kitchen, at the park, etc.).
- Say its name, and help the child to clap out the syllables

The word is...	Say and clap...
Airplane	Air – plane
7-Up	Se—ven—up
Truck	Truck (just one clap!)

Which word is longer? Clap and see!:

**This can be a tricky questions for young children.

Sev—en—up OR truck?

Train OR cat—er—pil—ar?

Say a word without a syllable:

Ask the child to say ‘Sev—en—up’ without the ‘up’: “Seven”

Say...	Without the...	Child claps and says
Tiger	Ger	Ti
Airplane	Air	Plane
Seven-up	En	Sev-up

Blend Sounds Together:

- Say a word “in pieces.”
- Help the child to blend the pieces into a whole word.
- Choose “pieces” to match your child’s skill.
 - Compound words (easiest): base-ball, dog-house, rain-bow, light-bulb, milk-shake, foot-ball, snow-man, cow-boy, pop-corn
 - Syllables: butt-er-fly, as-tro-naut, pa-ja-mas, di-no-saur, birth-day-cake, al-li-ga-tor, com-pu-ter, ba-by, bi-cy-cle, dol-phin, ex-er-cise, el-e-phant, ham-bur-ger, tel-e-vi-sion, cook-ies, gir-affe, um-brel-la, yes-ter-day, lol-li-pop, mos-qui-to, por-cu-pine, spa-ghe-tti, zip-per, mac-a-ro-ni, ted-dy-bear, wa-ter-mel-on, ti-ger, re-frig-er-a-tor.