

DEVELOPING PHONEMIC AWARENESS - K-2

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate phonemes (the smallest unit of sound that holds meaning in a word). This includes:

Identifying beginning and ending sounds

Blending sounds (ex: /s/-/u/-/n/ → sun)

Segmenting sounds (ex: shout → /sh/-/ow/-/t/)

Manipulating sounds (ex: say hat, now change the /h/ to /b/ → bat)

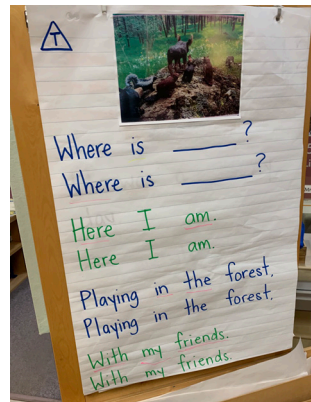
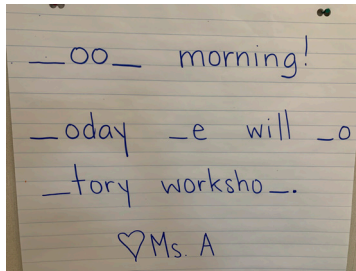
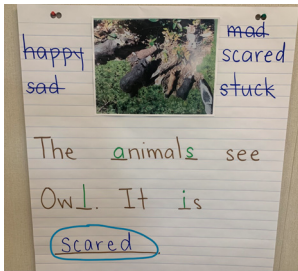
* Start with 2 phoneme words (CV, VC) then 3 phoneme words (CVC), then words with 1 blend (CCVC, CVCC)

**Even if it doesn't fit the suggested order above, starting with students names can be engaging for children

Explicit instruction and practice of phonemic awareness skills can be embedded into many literacy learning experiences, including thinking aloud while you write in front of your students and interactive writing.

TRY LITERACY TALKS (CLOZE READING WITH MISSING WORDS) AND USE MORNING MESSAGES TO DEVELOP PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Click [here](#) for a video example of how to model and practice phonemic awareness skills during a literacy talk



USE SONGS AND POEMS TO DEVELOP PHONEMIC AWARENESS

Click [here](#) for a video example

Click [here](#) for song and poem ideas

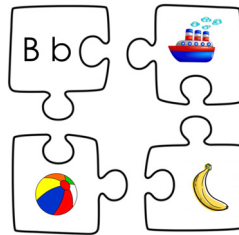
Click [here](#) for a document with more ideas for teaching reading with songs

TRY THIS BEGINNING SOUND PUZZLE OR SORT SOUNDS WITH ALPHABET TUBS

Try it as a whole class or small group, then make it a literacy centre. Click [here](#) to download the puzzle document!

Play sound sort games with the alphabet tubs - Click [here](#) for ideas!

Click [here](#) for more lit centre ideas!

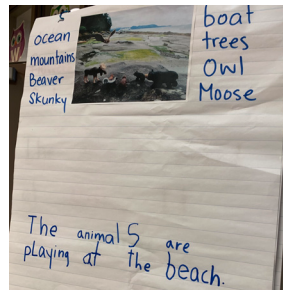


BUILD IN LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITING WITH INVENTED SPELLING - IT HELPS CHILDREN LEARN HOW TO SEGMENT THE SOUNDS IN WORDS

Try interactive writing together as a class or with a small group.

Invite students to draw, label and write stories.

Click [here](#) for a video of supporting a student with writing



PLAY SOME OF THESE ORAL LANGUAGE GAMES DURING TRANSITIONS OR CIRCLE TIME

- If your name starts with ___ sound, please stand up (touch your toes, clap your hands, line up etc).
- Which word doesn't belong? Say 3 words, which word doesn't have the same beginning sound (bat, ball, dog)? Can also play with the ending sound, or medial vowel sound.
- Mystery bag - The object in the bag has /n/ as the last sound.
- I spy with my little eye, a picture of an object that begins with ___ sound (ends with ___ sound, has 3 sounds that go like this /d/-/o/-/g/ etc.).

Try Elkonin boxes to support segmenting. Put a chip in a box for each sound heard in a word.

