

Supporting Phonological Awareness as an Educator

By Clarissa Wight for CONT 938



What is phonological awareness?

It's the understanding of how oral language can be divided into smaller parts of sound and manipulated. It's an important skill for understanding how letters represent sounds in written language. This is true for both beginning readers or older struggling readers, as well as ELL students. Phonological awareness increases spelling and reading abilities and can be explicitly taught through carefully planned lessons.

These lessons should include skills such as **alliteration**, **isolating first, final, or medial phonemes**, **blending phonemes**, **segmenting phonemes**, and **manipulating phonemes**. Some example activities that use these skills can be found below.

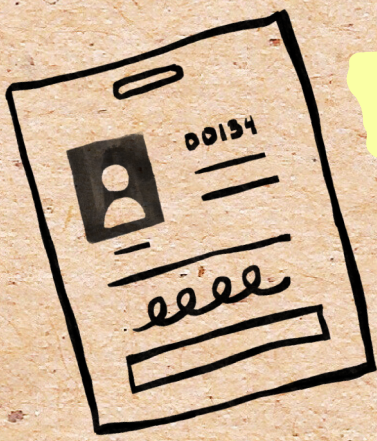
Phoneme Treasure Hunt

Have students hunt around the classroom or a specified area to find objects with a particular initial, medial, or final sound. After hunting, review the names of objects as a group to decide if they should stay in the treasure box or not.



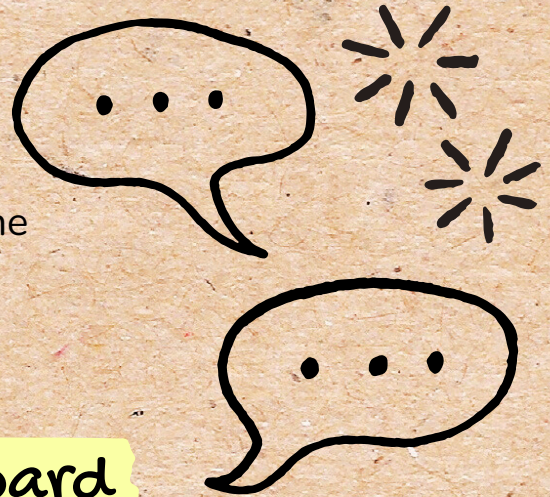
Phoneme Isolating Sound Quest Game

Using the double-picture cards that can be found [here](#), have students determine what the shared initial, medial, or final sound is between the two pictures. Then, they sort the pictures onto the chart based on where the matching sound is in the two words.



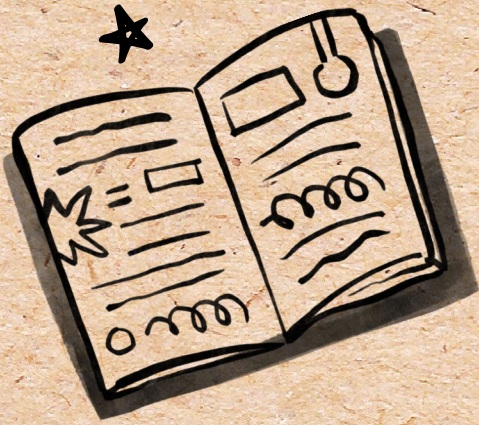
Phoneme Detective

In this activity, students work with a partner taking turns segmenting and blending phonemes. First, the "Segmenter" says the individual phonemes of a word aloud for the other student, the "Blender," to blend and guess the word. Then they swap with a new word.

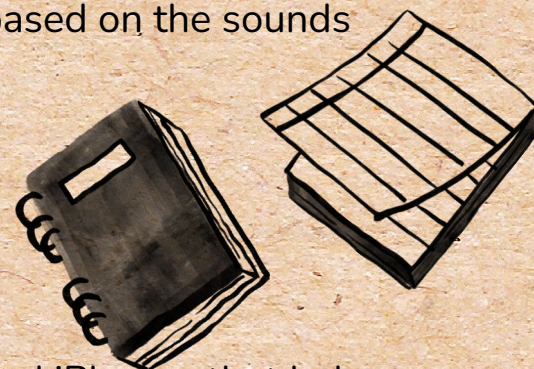


UFLI Blending Board

On the UFLI website, there is access to a digital [blending board](#). The sounds shown on the board can be adjusted to match the students' knowledge of beginning, medial, and final sounds. This board makes blending activities a breeze as it greys out the sounds that can't work based on the sounds already chosen.



Articulation Station Hive



Articulation Station Hive is a literacy app for iPads and iPhones that helps students improve their articulation and pronunciation. The activities it has target specific sounds first in isolation, then in syllables and slowly working up to the conversational level. Minimal pairs activities involve substituting and omitting sounds. The sounds are practiced in phrases and sentences before they are practiced in stories, then in conversation scenes, which include questions to answer. As an educator, this app helps with monitoring students progress as it tracks the sessions for each specific student. With the professional tier of the subscription, the number of student profiles are unlimited.

Resources

20 Phonemic Awareness Activities for Students. 95 Percent Group. (2023, November 29). https://www.95percentgroup.com/insights/phonemic-awareness-activities/?srsltid=AfmBOoqGoOVINOtCUxyz4fnbsulVNfMw_CkVTLC-7O-px6Lnn3_T5Jc

Chard, D. J., & Dickson, S. V. (n.d.). *Phonological Awareness: Instructional and Assessment Guidelines*. Reading Rockets. <https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/phonological-and-phonemic-awareness/articles/phonological-awareness-instructional-and>

Little Bee Speech. (2021, November 11). *Articulation Station Hive for iPad, iPhone & Mac*. <http://www.littlebeespeech.com/blog/articulation-station-hive-for-ipad-and-iphone/>

Resources. University of Florida Literacy Institute. (n.d.). [https://ufl.edu/education.ufl.edu/resources/](https://ufl.edu/education/ufl.edu/resources/)