



HELLO PARENTS,

Language is made up of words, and words are made up of individual sounds called **phonemes**. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate these sounds. **Phonics** refers to how letters represent sounds. Reading is a process that involves learning the sounds of the language, recognizing their relationship to the written words, and understanding their meaning. Children need a strong phonemic awareness to be able to develop phonics skills. Those with strong phonemic and phonics awareness learn to read much more easily, and make their first attempts at reading more successful. In this newsletter, we provide activities that will promote phonemic and phonics awareness.

ACTIVITIES INFANTS (3 -18 MONTHS)

LAP RHYMES

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child sit on your lap and play the rhyme below:
 - Two little hands go clap, clap, clap,
 - Two little feet go tap, tap, tap,
 - Two little legs kick high, high, high,
 - Two little lips go kiss, kiss, kiss,
 - Two little arms go hug, hug, hug,
 - Two little arms wave bye, bye, bye!
- Chant the rhyme and make the accompanying actions, such as clapping, tapping, kicking, kissing, hugging, and waving.
- Encourage your child to imitate you or help them make these motions while chanting the rhyme.

[Click here](#) for more nursery rhymes and songs.

TODDLERS (19 MONTHS – 2.5 YEARS)

SOUND SORTING

MATERIALS:

- Container
- Variety of small toys and everyday objects

DIRECTIONS:

- Fill the container with the small objects.
- Have your child close their eyes and pick one item from the container.
- Ask your child to name the item and then pronounce the first sound followed by the rest of the word. For example, when your child picks a toy dog, they will say: "Dog, /d/-/d/-dog". At the beginning, you may say it first until your child understands how to separate the initial sound from the rest of the word.
- Take turns playing this game.

[Click here](#) to listen to "Phonics Song with Two Words".

PRESCHOOLERS (2.5 – 5 YEARS)

LETTER FISHING

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Marker
- Magnet
- Stick
- Scissors
- Paper clips
- String
- Tape

DIRECTIONS:

- Have your child draw 26 fish on the construction paper and cut them out.
- Write one letter of the alphabet on each fish and attach a paper clip.
- Make a fishing rod using the stick and string, and use tape to attach the magnet to the end of the string.
- Encourage your child to use the fishing rod to catch the fish letters.
- When your child catches a fish, encourage them to pronounce the sound of the letter on the fish, and think of a word that starts with that sound.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

[Click here](#) to read "I Ain't Gonna Paint No More" by Karen Beaumont.

JK/SK (4 – 6 YEARS)

READ THE PICTURES

MATERIALS:

- A collection of various pictures

DIRECTIONS:

- Sit with your child and let them choose a picture.
- Ask your child to name the object in the picture and clap for the syllables. For example, when your child picks a picture of a dog, they clap once; when they pick a picture of an umbrella, they clap three times (um-bre-lla).
- Encourage your child to identify the first and last sounds of each word.
- Take turns playing this game.

[Click here](#) to read "The Three Bears ABC" by Grace Maccarone.

[Click here](#) for more activities.

SCHOOL-AGERS (6 – 12 YEARS)

DIY RHYMING DOMINOES

MATERIALS:

- Construction paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors

DIRECTIONS:

- Discuss with your friends or family and come up with lists of rhyming words. [Click here](#) to find lists of words that rhyme.
- Cut the construction paper into smaller rectangles.
- Draw a line down the middle of each card.
- Choose pairs of two words from your list that do not rhyme with each other and write them on each card, separating them with the line in the middle of the card. For example, write bear/hat, mat/cow, wall/beat, etc.
- Deal an equal number of cards to each player, face down.
- The first player puts one card in the middle, face up.
- The next player must find a card with a word that rhymes with one of the words on the first card. If they have no match, they skip a turn.
- The other players continue taking turns and finding the matching rhyming words.
- The player with no cards left wins the game.

[Click here](#) to read rhyming poems.



Immigration, Refugees
and Citizenship Canada

Immigration, Réfugiés
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A TIP FOR TODAY

- Read aloud to your child frequently.
- Choose books with rhymes and repeated sounds (for example books by Dr. Seuss).
- Play rhyming or guessing games, such as "I Spy the Letter" or "I Spy Something that Rhymes with..."
- Encourage your child to create their own rhymes, poems, or stories.
- Practice the alphabet by pointing out letters wherever you see them and by reading books about the alphabet.
- Clap syllables while chanting rhymes with your child.