

What is Phonemic Awareness?

Phonemic awareness is:

- The ability to hear the individual parts of words, separate the parts, put them back together and then change them to make new words (Adams, 1990)
- A strong indicator of reading success
- Oral (once you add print, it become phonics)
- Usually developed naturally through reading rhyming books, singing songs, and chanting nursery rhymes
- Usually securely developed by the end of first grade

A student with developed phonemic awareness can:

- Enjoy language and play with its sounds
- Understand that what we speak can be divided into individual words-concept of word
- Break words into syllables (parts/chunks)
- Provide rhyming words, find the words that rhyme
- Segment words into their individual phonemes (sounds) cat becomes /c/ /a/ /t/
- Blend individual phonemes (sounds) into words: /d/ /o/ /g/ becomes dog
- Identify the beginning, middle and ending sounds in words
- Match words with the same beginning sound
- Change beginning or ending sounds orally to make new words