

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This summer your child is engaging in Heggerty Phonemic Awareness lessons. **Phonemic awareness** allows children to recognize and work with the sounds of language. These activities are sometimes called ear exercises because the focus is on hearing the sounds in words.

Why is Phonemic Awareness Important?

Phonemic awareness is a strong predictor of reading success. Building a foundation in isolating, blending, segmenting and manipulating sounds is critical for learning how to read and write.

How Can You Support Phonemic Awareness at Home?

Here are some ideas of games or “ear exercises” you can play with your child. Phonemic awareness is simple to support at home— all you need is language! Help your child understand that the words they hear in speech are made up of sounds.

Activities to Support Phonemic Awareness

- ★ **Play with alliteration:** (words that begin with the same sound)
 - Example: Let’s think of a sentence and make all of the words beginning with the /s/ sound:
Seven silly sisters said surprise!
- ★ **Guess the word:** Say the **sounds** in a word, and ask your child to blend them together to guess the word. This activity helps your child read words.
 - Example: Say: /m/-/a/-/p/ (sounds, not letter names) Child: *map*
- ★ **Be a Ninja:** Say a whole word, then ask your child to say the word back to you and chop the word into the **sounds** they hear. They can use their hands as they segment or chop the word into each sound. This activity helps your child to spell words.
 - Example: Say: *top* Child: *top*, /t/-/o/-/p/ (sounds, not letter names)
- *If 3 sounds is too difficult, try these activities with just 2 sounds to start. Once 2 sounds are mastered, move to 3 and up to 4 sounds.*
- *Make these activities more difficult by including words with long vowels, digraph sounds (ch, sh, th), and up to four sounds.*

We look forward to supporting you and your child in building foundational literacy skills this summer! In addition to the newsletters you will receive, you can find more support and information on our website and social media pages.

Visit our website: <https://www.heggerty.org>

View lesson demonstrations: [Heggerty Phonemic Awareness - YouTube](#)

