

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This summer your child is engaging in Heggerty Phonemic Awareness lessons. **Phonemic awareness** teaches students to hear individual sounds in words, and this supports the development of strong reading and writing skills. *“Phonemic awareness has been shown to be a very powerful predictor of later reading achievement. In fact, it [phonemic awareness] is a better predictor than more global measures such as IQ or general language proficiency” (Griffith and Olson, 1992).*

Phonemic awareness activities take place orally and are about having fun with language play. Therefore, there is no need for any writing or reading during this practice.

Consider using the following activities at home with your child:

- ★ Can you **blend** (put together) three sounds to make a word? Say the **sounds** (not letter names) g - ě - t, your child will repeat those sounds back and then tell you the whole word, Child: g - ě - t → get.

m - ǒ - m → mom

t - ä - p → tap

h - ī - d → hide

TIP: If your child is having difficulty, try slowly blending the sounds and then ask your child to say the word, or start with 2 sounds adding more sounds as the progress.

- ★ Can you **segment** (separate) these words into their individual sounds? Say the word map, your child will repeat the word and then segment the word into individual **sounds** (not letter names), Child: map → m - ä - p .

pet → p - ě - t

tame → t - ā - m

seek → s - ē - k

TIP: If your child is having difficulty, try this: “Can you tell me the 3 sounds you hear in this word?” Or have them say the word in slow motion to see if they can hear each sound.

You can also begin with words with just 2 sounds to support this skill.

- **Challenge:** Add in words with more complex vowel patterns and words with 4 or even 5 sounds for your child to practice blending and segmenting with. Example: storm → s - t - or - m
- ★ Give your child a word and have them repeat it back to you. Then, **add** a sound to the beginning and see if they can tell you the new word.
 - Say an → add */f/ to the beginning and the word is? → fan
 - Say eat → add */s/ to the beginning and the word is? → seat
 - Say ice → add */m/ to the beginning and the word is? → mice

*Say sound not letter name

- **Extension:** Give them the whole word and take the first sound away. Can they tell you what is left? Example: Say fan → without */f/ what’s left is? → an



Make it Multi-sensory! For blending, have your child use a pop-it and push down one bubble for each sound they hear in the word. Then, have your child blend the sounds together to “say it fast” like a word. For segmenting, students can do the opposite. Have your child repeat the whole word, then push down one bubble for each sound they hear. For more options, view our lesson videos to see how using hand motions can support your child: [Heggerty Phonemic Awareness - YouTube](#)

We look forward to supporting you and your child in building foundational literacy skills this summer! Visit our website: <https://www.hegerty.org>