

Helping your child hear and use the sounds in language

(Phonological Awareness)



Created by the Cornwall Cognition and Learning Service,
Treloweth Primary School, Lanner Primary School and St Day
Primary School



Working in partnership with your child's school



Working with your child's school is so important. The school will want to help you to help your child. If you are concerned about your child's progress, please speak to the class teacher and/or SENDCo.

1. Meet your child's teacher.

- As soon as the school year starts, find a way to meet your child's teacher.
- Ask your child's teacher who else can help you and your child or visit the school website.



2. Attend parent meetings; let your child's teacher know if you have any worries.

- Write parent meeting dates onto your calendar as soon as you get them.
- You can bring a friend to support you if you are anxious or have to attend on your own.
- You can also ask to meet with your child's teacher at any time during the year. If you have a concern and can't meet face-to-face, send the teacher a short note or set up a time to talk on the phone.

Remember

3. Do ask questions.

- If something concerns you about your child's learning or behaviour, discuss your worries with the class teacher.



4. Encourage your child to recognise the importance of homework.

- Let your child know that you think education is important and that homework needs to be done each day.
- You can help your child with homework by finding them a quiet, comfortable place to work in, setting a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the t.v. and mobile phones during homework time.



5. Find homework help for your child if needed.

- If it is difficult for you to help your child with homework or projects, see if you can find someone else who can help. Speak to the school to see if they can help you.
- Ask your child's school if they offer a homework club. Or, see if an older pupil, family member or friend can help. Ask the school for resources to support if needed.



Supporting your child's learning at home



1. Be positive about your child's learning.

- This can help your child to develop a positive attitude toward school. It will also build their confidence as a learner.



2. Talk with your child.

- Make time to talk with and listen to your child every day.
- Talking and listening are so important and will support your child's learning.
- It's also important for you to show your child that you're interested in what he or she has to say.



3. Be aware of your child's TV, computer game and internet use.

- Encourage your child to have set 'technology time' daily e.g. the first hour that they are home from school is their 'technology time'.



4. Encourage your child to read.

- Helping your child to become a reader is one of the most important things you can do to help your child to succeed in school.
- Reading helps children in all school subjects.
- **Encourage your child to use the library and visit bookshops.**



5. Encourage independence in your child.

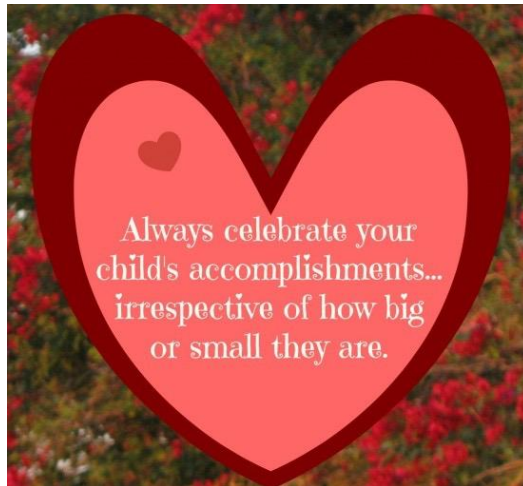
- Taking responsibility and working independently are important qualities for school success.
- You can help your child by making it clear to your child that they have to take responsibility for what they do, both at home and at school.
- Help your child to prepare for each school day, making sure that they have all of the equipment they need.



6. Have fun! Enjoy the time you spend with your child.



Take a moment to celebrate your child:



Write down five amazing things about your child:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



A brief overview of phonological awareness

For children to read and write, they must have an awareness of the sounds in language and an ability to manipulate these sounds. This is called phonological awareness.

Phonological awareness is achieved when we can:

Break language down into sentences

e.g. We had a lovely picnic on holiday. / We had sandwiches and crisps.

Sentences are broken down into words

e.g. we / had / sandwiches / and / crisps

Words can be broken down into syllables

e.g. sand / wich / es

Syllables can be broken down into onset and rime

e.g. s / and

Children must be able to hear the above and must also be able to:

- hear the initial sound in words
- recognise and create rhymes

Before children come to school we can help them by:

- chatting with them
- teaching them new words
- singing nursery rhymes
- singing other songs and rhymes
- singing action rhymes with our children (e.g. 'Row, row, row the boat')
- playing simple word games like I Spy

Sometimes children need to carry on playing language/sound games after they have started school. Ideally, these games should not include your child reading and writing.

Below are some fun activities to support your child's phonological awareness development at home.

Menu of phonological awareness activities:

 <p>Play 'sound bingo'</p>	 <p>Play alphabet games</p>	 <p>I Spy</p>
<p>Crawl like a creepy crawly caterpillar</p>  <p>Make up silly sentences using words that begin with same letter</p>	 <p>Clap the beats (syllables) in words</p>	 <p>Count the syllables in names</p>
 <p>Sort objects according to how many syllables their name has</p>	 <p>Cut word strips into syllables</p>	 <p>Read poems and rhymes to your child</p>
 <p>Play the 'feely bag' rhyming game</p>	 <p>Play rhyming pairs</p>	 <p>Dance and clap to raps and pop songs</p>

* If you come across any other fab ideas, please share them with us, new ideas are always welcome.

The menu explained...

Sound Bingo



A range of sound bingo games can be found on the internet and can be found by searching for 'sound bingo'

Alphabet games



- For each letter of the alphabet think of:
 - An animal
 - A name
 - A food
 - Any other group you can think of and your child would think is fun

apple

banana

cake

doughnut

egg

fruit

I Spy

You think of something you can see beginning with a letter of your choice and say 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with?' Your child then has to guess what you are thinking of. Once they guess correctly it is their turn.

Silly sentences

Make up a sentence or tongue twister using words beginning with the same letter.

Make a list of words beginning with the same letter (provided by your child). Together make up a fun story using as many of those words as possible.

Clap the beats (syllables) in words

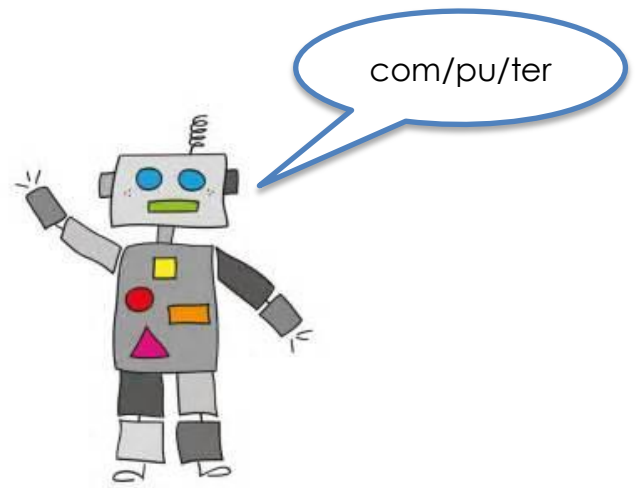
Count the syllables in:

- Family names
- Friends names
- Animal names
- Dinosaur names





Or

Say words in a robot voice

When you do it in a robot voice, it makes it easier to count the syllables.



Sort objects according to how many syllables your child's name has

1	2	3	4
			

Cut word strips into syllables

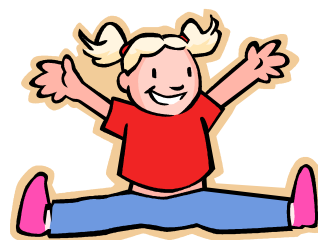
Write words on strips of paper with a picture to show what the word is. Say the word together and cut the word into syllables.

Play the 'feely bag' rhyming game

Find 6 pairs of objects from around the house with rhyming names. Put the objects in a bag. You pull an object out and then your child feels in the bag to find an object which has a name that rhymes with your object.

Play rhyming pairs

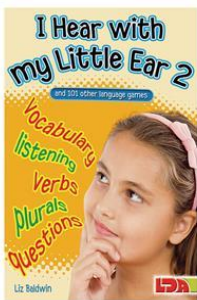
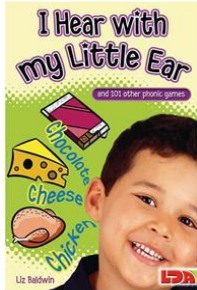
Make or buy pairs cards of rhyming words
Dance and clap to rap and pop songs



Make it fun, fun, fun!
fun!!!!!!

Useful weblinks and resources:

This list is by no means exhaustive. It is easy to find ideas online by searching 'phonological awareness activities' into a search engine.



'I hear with my Little Ear' 1 and 2 by Liz Baldwin
Books full of activities to develop phonological awareness. Can be bought in book shops and via the internet.

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-raise-reader/5-favorite-games-play-words> - here you can find some suggestions for fun word games that you can buy

Ideas of games to play:

<https://www.superduperinc.com/handouts/pdf/172%20Phonological%20Awareness.pdf>

<http://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/Phonological%20Awareness%20Infants.pdf>

<http://www.scholastic.com/parents/blogs/scholastic-parents-learning-toolkit/word-games-to-play-kids>