

Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness involves the ability to hear sounds in words and sentences and to be able to manipulate these sounds in different ways. Below is a list of phonological awareness skills presented in the order in which they develop. **Children begin to learn phonological awareness around age 3 and continue to develop these abilities until ages 7 or 8.**

“Children who readily develop phonemic awareness in kindergarten will probably learn to read easily”
(Goldsworthy, 2001, p. 3).

Phonological Awareness Skill	Age	Example
Syllable Segmentation	3-4	Q: Can you tap out the syllables in the word superman? A: 3 taps
Syllable Blending	4-6	Q: What word do you get when you put “cow” and “boy” together? A: “Cowboy”
Rhyming	4-5	Q: What rhymes with “mat”, “car”, “mouse”? A: “hat”, “far” and “house”
Compound Word Deletion	5 -6	Q: Say “rainbow”. Now say it again but don’t say “rain”. A: “bow”
Initial Sound Isolation	5-6	Q: What is the first sound in the word “fall”? A: /f/
Sound Segmentation	5-7	Q: Say the word “run” and tap each sound. A: /r/ - /u/ - /n/
Sound Blending	5-7	Q: What word do you hear when you put the sounds /d/ - /o/ - /g/ together? A: “dog”
Sound Deletion	6-7	Q: Say “hat”. Now say it again without the /h/ sound. A: “at”
Sound Substitution	6-8	Q: Say the word “tan”. Now change the sound /m/ with the sound /t/. A: “man”
Sound-Grapheme Matching	5-8	Q: What letters make the /k/ sound? A: c and k

Chart adapted from LS Guide To Communication Milestones, Lanza, J., Flahive, L., 2012., The Development of Phonological Skills, Moats, L., Tolman, C., 2009.