

Parent/Guardian Resources

Notes for parents/guardians:

- Always provide positive feedback and encouragement to your child.
 - When the child makes an error, handle it in a positive way. For example, the child might make an error on a vowel sound, but got all the other letters right. You could say to your child something like, “You did a great job with the consonants. Let’s look at the vowel again.”
 - If the child is stuck or you don’t know how to help the child, just say the word and have the child repeat it.
- If your child has a take home binder, you can review the material with him/her.
- For children with dyslexia, when activities are listed by grade level, most children do not have “grade level” skills in the sub-skills for reading, spelling, and writing.
 - We recommend starting with the lower grade levels to see if your child is successful with those activities.
- For rhyming activities, many children with dyslexia will not be able to give a rhyming word. You should skip rhyming activities if these are difficult for your child.
- Each activity chosen should be worked on for **no more than 5 to 10 minutes**. Reading and reading sub-skills can be tiring for children with dyslexia. This short time is also effective for children with difficulty maintaining attention/focus.

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Activities to Help Your Child at Home (No Wi-Fi Needed)

What follows are tips by experts to help your child practice literacy skills. Research shows that the key to using these strategies effectively is practice. You do not need to do all the strategies.

General Suggestions:

Read with your child every day

This is possibly the most important point of all. Set aside a regular time each day to read with your child. It doesn't have to be for more than 20 minutes.

Don't leave home without it

Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as at a doctor's office or for a long car ride. Always try to fit in reading.

Pick books that are at the right level

Use the "five finger rule" where he or she reads the first page, and if there are five unknown words then the text should be read together. It is probably too hard for your child to read alone.

Phonological/Phonemic Awareness:

See pages 4 and 5 below.

Decoding:

Be patient

When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Prompt your child to look closely at the letters in the word and use the strategies they have learned at the center.

Chunky monkey

When your child comes to an unknown word, encourage him or her to break the word into known parts, such as prefixes, suffixes, roots, and base words.

Fluency:

Once is not enough

Encourage your child to re-read favorite books and poems. Re-reading helps children build fluency, speed, and accuracy.

Reading to others

Have your child read to a younger child; this sets a purpose for reading and encourages your child to read with expression. If a younger friend or sibling is not available, then your child can read into a recording device, to Grandma over the phone, on Skype or even to a dog.

High Frequency

Encourage your child to read high-frequency word lists, such as Fry sight words.

Comprehension/Understanding:

Dig deeper into the story

Ask your child questions about the story you've just read. Ask, "Why do you think Charlie did that? What else could he have done? Why do you think the author set the story in New York City?" Ask a mixture of factual questions (the what) and more complex higher-level questions (the why and the how).

Use retelling

It is useful when you ask your child to retell what has happened. This sequencing of key events can be done either at the end of the story or at the end of each chapter.

Look at text features

With your child, turn the chapter and heading titles into questions. Then, read the text for the answers.

Vocabulary:

Tell family tales

Children love to hear stories about their family. Talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young and weave in descriptive words to build vocabulary.

Talk, talk, talk!

Talk with your child every day about school and things going on around the house. Include some interesting words into the conversation, and build on words you've talked about in the past.

Writing/Spelling:

Create a writing toolbox

Fill a box with drawing and writing materials. Find opportunities for your child to write, such as creating a shopping list, thank you notes, or birthday cards.

Parent/Child Journal

Get a notebook and write to your child. Put it under his/her pillow. Encourage your child to write back. Continue to write back and forth to each other regularly. (Yes, even teens like this!)

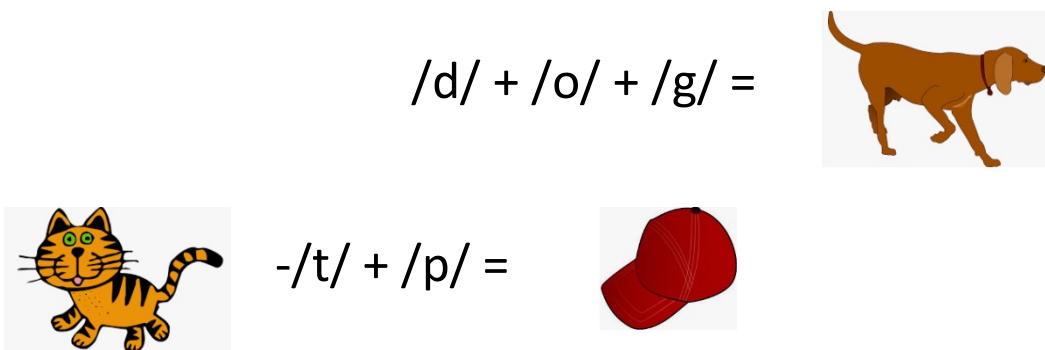
What is Phonological Awareness?

The starting point of reading is being able to recognize a sound. When we read, we blend sounds together; when we spell, we segment sounds. That's where phonological awareness becomes important.

Phonological Awareness is a group of skills in which children recognize and work with sounds in words. Phonological Awareness is usually done orally. These skills include rhyming, counting words in sentences, dividing words into syllables, blending syllables to make words and phonemic awareness.

Phonemic awareness is the last skill to develop. This skill lets kids tune into individual sounds (phonemes) in a word. It includes the ability to separate a word into the sounds that make it up and to blend single sounds into words. It also involves the ability to add, subtract or substitute new sounds in words.

Instruction in phonological awareness is a structured, step-by-step process. Kids start by rhyming and identifying beginning sounds in words. Next comes blending spoken sounds into words and dividing words into their individual sounds. The last step is learning to add, subtract and substitute sounds to make new words.



How You Can Practice Phonological Awareness

***Choose activities your child enjoys, and keep it short (about 5 minutes) to hold his/her interest. These activities do not require any paper or pencils; you can even do them while riding in the car.

Make Language a Part of Every Day

- Have your child say vocabulary or everyday words aloud and pronounce them correctly.
- When listening to your child read, draw your child's attention to words that have similar sounds (i.e. flush/flesh/fresh; dessert/desert) Ask your child to watch you as you pronounce the new or similar sounding word (i.e. If your child says "continent" for "consonant," have your child look at you as you say the correct word. Then ask your child to repeat the correct word.)

Pound a Beat

- Segment syllables and/or speech sounds. Let's say you want your child to isolate the syllables in the word *beginning*. Pause as you say each syllable—be-gin-ning—and have your child pound their fist on the table or their lap for each syllable. You can also get your child up and moving by stomping or jumping with each syllable.

Guess this Word

- Tell your child that you will say some sounds with a very brief pause in between. He/she has to guess the word. For example, "Listen to these sounds and tell me the word /r/- /ă/- /b/- /i/- /t/. What is the word? The word is *rabbit*."
- You can switch roles and use the game to help your child practice segmenting. Have your child choose a mystery word and break it into individual phonemes for *you* to guess. For example, if your child picks the word *plate*, he/she would say, "I see a /p/- /l/- /ā/- /t/." You would then blend the separate sounds together to guess the word.

Word Change

(Only move to this skill once you know that your child can blending and segment.) Explain to your child that you are changing sounds in words and he/she must listen carefully and tell you the new word. This can be done with the first, last or middle sound.

- Initial Sound:** Say "chat." Now change /ch/ to /s/. What does it say? "sat."
- Ending Sound:** Say "slap". Now change /p/ to /b/. What does it say? "slab."
- Middle Sound:** Say "wait." Now change /ai/ to /i/. What does it say? "wit."

Online Resources

OG Card Deck:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/developer/mayerson-academy/id709418435>

- This is information about a card deck app to practice letters and sounds. It is only available to download on iPhones or iPads.

Phonemic Awareness:

<https://www.heggerty.org/download-assessments-and-resources>

- Download the [English Primary E-Learning Lessons](#)
- Click on “Learn More” at the top of the page to see video demonstrations on how to give the lessons.

Phonological Awareness Activities: Supports child’s knowledge of sounds which is the main underlying skill of successful reading.

<https://www.ateachableteacher.com/online-phonemic-awareness-games/>

<https://www.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/>

Oral Language Skills:

<https://www.prekinders.com/category/literacy/phonological-awareness/>

- Sorting and categorizing skills help develop oral language and are necessary for identifying main ideas and supporting details for reading comprehension and writing composition.

<https://freelanguagestuff.com/category/>

- Lists category skills by ages.

<http://www.speechtx.com/pdf/category.pdf>

- Printable activities for oral language skills

https://busyteacher.org/classroom_activities-vocabulary/describing_people_and_things/describing_things-worksheets/

- FREE Describing Things Worksheets: The ability to describe something is an important aspect of English language learning. This is an important skill needed for oral communication and written composition.

Basic Reading Skills from the Florida Center for Reading Research:

- Preschool:
https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_vpk.html?fbclid=IwAR1NfcvQqbnMlb7C8Y9D4Nd_RdMX8aYO2_GLFoE-zdzBVxD8dL9FMA1MODQ
- Kindergarten-Grade 1: https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_sca_k-1.html
- Kindergarten-Grade 5:
https://fcrr.org/resources/resources_sca.html?fbclid=IwAR3RGjIWnlYtR4VXyR8vBW6Fr0q1fSWHQD9zmygckjsvNujuYWI64U8Q9cc

Multiple Areas of Literacy:

<https://www.nessy.com/us/product/nessy-reading/>

- Click on “free trial” to sign up.

<https://pbskids.org/>

- PBS Kids has great educational media for children ages 2-8, including over 35 apps. You can see descriptions of each app and download them <https://pbskids.org/apps/>.

<https://teach.starfall.com/>

- Free resources for language/reading and math.

Online Books:

<https://accounts.learninga-z.com/accountsweb/marketing/trial.do?campaign=rkCOVID19Trial>

- Sign up for a free 3 month trial for access to lots of books your child can read or have read to them.

https://improvingliteracy.org/kid-zone?fbclid=IwAR19HLTBLfy_t7fadC4gzWGo3J_pbDrBlle2OrwTbEv7il8IndaOmzoIO70

- Offers books to read and books to listen to

Authors/Actors/Astronauts reading books:

<https://www.romper.com/p/famous-people-reading-childrens-books-is-one-good-thing-during-the-coronavirus-shut-in-22621288>

- Favorite authors and illustrators, from **Josh Gad** and **Mac Barnett** to **Oge Mora**, **Annie Barrows**, **Eva Chen**, **Sophie Blackall**, **Rowboat Watkins**, and **Jan Brett** have taken to reading/performing stories online.

https://coolprogeny.com/2020/03/operation-storytime/?fbclid=IwAR3enux7T6DK-h_acuvMv1Alm7g0qidoG1I5fGuldVEapKo51HZ5Z7FYLoE

- Children’s book authors are now doing virtual storytimes!

<https://growingbookbybook.com/online-literacy-resources/?fbclid=IwAR3DY9avRbJ5zQGYiNof-TThQxo8rGWjsRsv35bN0V0-QwfSCc19QcSZfRU>

- Virtual Storytime

https://www.katemessner.com/read-wonder-and-learn-favorite-authors-illustrators-share-resources-for-learning-anywhere-spring-2020/?fbclid=IwAR3H2lgvfdp1wyTwG-exbXthrpt_XmubD_XerM38OgAetYMFqkx8-V1Am4Y

- This is a library of resources for kids, families, teachers, and librarians to make sure that reading & learning can happen anywhere this spring.

<https://storytimefromspace.com/books-2/books-approved-for-launch/>

- Astronauts on various missions in space read popular children’s books while floating about, and the videos are edited and shared with kids way down on Earth.

<https://www.youtube.com/studioijk>

- Jarrett J. Krosoczka—children’s author & illustrator; videos on illustrating and him reading/discussing his books

<https://www.storylineonline.net/>

- Stories read by movie stars

Activities with Authors/Illustrators:

<https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/mo-willems/>

- Popular children’s author, Mo Willems, invites YOU into his studio every day for his LUNCH DOODLE to draw, doodle and explore new ways of writing by visiting Mo’s studio virtually once a day for the next few weeks.

<https://www.kidsaskauthors.com/>

- Kids Ask Authors is a weekly 5-10 minute podcast where children’s book author/illustrator [Grace Lin](#) and a guest author answer one question from a child reader.

<https://www.stimolalive.com/>

- Stimola Live is a website of live stream events for kids, tweens, and teens by professional authors and illustrators represented by Stimola Literary Studio.

Reading Activities/Videos/Games:

<https://www.seussville.com/>

- Reading and other activities plus games.

<https://www.abcya.com/>

- Reading and math games.

<https://www.funbrain.com/>

- Games, videos, and books for kids

<https://www.highlightskids.com/>

- Activities and games for kids

Math Activities:

https://www.coolmathgames.com/?fbclid=IwAR0CzlkZ6U3drZ0klAR57G37m9_zTrKwJcyYOv4FYv5WR9qWr6Gb7gWCeLU

- Free online math games, cool puzzles and more.

<https://homeschoolgiveaways.com/2019/08/free-geometry-resources-for-upper-elementary/?fbclid=IwAR3EHrxFcUE-NbUeQO5mEf0q9CyvCH4KkBpa5IB-VyOYIU6UF8V0Qi8Dck>

- Geometry activities for children.

Other Educational Resources:

<https://virtualschoolactivities.com/>

- Welcome to Virtual School Activities! A collection of sites to live web cams, virtual tours/trips, and other miscellaneous fun academic sites.

https://www.weareteachers.com/educational-netflix-shows/?utm_content=1584278383&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&fbclid=IwAR2ihxWQfpYGD1nsrpkLFeZ1WkorLkEXfBQd9swnJNUGe4WBot5I3sCWTo

- 30 Great Educational Netflix shows, sorted by recommended ages/grades

Facebook: [Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden](#)

- With the Zoo closed, zookeepers are offering Facebook live streams to keep you in the loop with your favorite furry friends. The first session was streamed March 16 at 3 p.m., featuring none other than Cincinnati Zoo superstar Fiona the hippo.


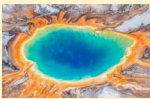








<https://adventuresinfamilyhood.com/20-virtual-field-trips-to-take-with-your-kids.html?fbclid=IwAR12QYWodQYK03vijkhCgJP1f0f3hLdSzeie9wrB33USEOLvXXcfsO2U3p8>

- 20 Virtual Field Trips to Take with Your Kids

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SvldgTx9djKO6SjyvPDsoG1kgE3iExmi3qh2KRRku_w/preview?fbclid=IwAR3BmLuuzgBDYZ0jVZFRg6NWkFNkBqxnTLYcseH-7emT7XMs1US22B-S5m8

Over 30 Virtual Field Trips with Links

("Control" and "Click" on colored text for links. Safe Travels!)

San Diego Zoo		The San Diego Zoo has a website just for kids with amazing videos, activities, and games. Enjoy the tour!
Yellowstone National Park Virtual Field Trip		Mud Volcano , Mammoth Hot Springs , and so much more. Tour Yellowstone National Park!
MARS!!!		Explore the surface of Mars on the Curiosity Rover. They are updating from WEBVR to WEBXR now, but 360 Mode offers a digital view!
Animal Cameras		Live Cams at the San Diego Zoo Monterey Bay Aquarium live cams Panda Cam at Zoo Atlanta 6 Animal Cams at Houston Zoo Georgia Aquarium has Jellyfish , Beluga Whales , and more
Virtual Farm Tour		This Canadian site FarmFood 360 offers 11 Virtual Tours of farms from minks, pigs, and cows, to apples and eggs.
U.S. Space and Rocket Museum in Huntsville, AL		See the Saturn 5 Rocket on YouTube and more on this tour thanks to a real father/son outing.
Discovery Education Virtual Field Trips		A few of the field trip topics include Polar Bears and the Tundra , Social-Emotional Skills , STEM , manufacturing
The Louvre		Travel to Paris, France to see amazing works of art at The Louvre with this virtual field trip.
The Great Wall of China		This Virtual Tour of the Great Wall of China is beautiful and makes history come to life.
Boston Children's Museum		Walk through the Boston Children's Museum thanks to Google Maps! This virtual tour allows kids to explore 3 floors of fun.