

Partners in Learning

Video Suite



Developing phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is an ability to hear, identify and manipulate separate, individual phonemes in words. A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound within a word ([ACARA, 2020](#)). Phonemic awareness is crucial in learning to read and for developing further literacy skills. Phonemic awareness is developed through speaking and listening.

What is discussed in this video?

The video contains a modelled example of activities for developing phonemic awareness, including: onset and rime segmentation; the position of phonemes within words; blending and segmenting sounds in words and manipulating sounds.

What are the key messages that can be used to inform the school community?

- Onset and rime occurs in single syllable words. The initial sound (the onset) is segmented from the rest of the word (the rime).
- Phonemes can be beginning sounds, final sounds or medial sounds (medial sounds are the sounds in the middle of a word).
- When children become confident identifying individual sounds within words, they may begin to both blend and segment the sounds independently.
- Manipulating sounds involves deleting and substituting sounds in a word.
- Phonemic awareness can be developed in the early years through speaking and listening activities.
- A solid foundation in phonemic awareness places children in an excellent position for developing reading and further literacy skills in the future.
- Consider using some of the example activities that support phonemic awareness as seen in the video.

