




The LIVRE-MOI committee will send you a capsule each month to support you in implementing **emergent Literacy** activities in your program. Many of your centres are already involved in LIVRE-MOI activities.

This year, we'll be focusing on **phonological awareness**. PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS is the ability to think about the sounds in words. Long before children start school, they develop PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS with the help of the adults around them. Children need PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS in order to learn to read. For example, to read the word « **apple** », the child must be able to do all of the following :

2 years : « **apple** » =  The child associates the word to the **object**.

4 years: « **apple** » = « **a** » + « **ple** » The child thinks about **the sounds** in the word.

7 years: « **apple** » = **apple** The child can write **the letters** of the word.

Phonological awareness is the step where the child thinks about the sounds in the word.

It would be my pleasure to speak to you through the year. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or if you need any more information!



« EN + VLOP » =



PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS is the ability to think about the sounds in words. Which of the following activities indicate that the child has developed phonological awareness? (The answers are at the bottom of the page)

1. He says that "juice" and "june" start the same.
2. She recognizes her first name when it is written.
3. He identifies 2 words that rhyme.
4. She likes to listen to stories.
5. He separates the word « library » into 3 syllables : LI-BRA-RY.
6. She says that « knee » and « kite » start with the same thing.
7. He says he hears a car soun (v v v v v) in his name : « Vince ».
8. She asks what is written when she sees words.

The activities that are not PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS activities are not bad activities. They just don't help the child think about sounds. PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS activities will be described in upcoming A Taste for Reading capsules each month. Take a look to see what you can do to help prepare your children for learning to read and write in school.

If you have any questions or want more information, don't hesitate to contact me! It would be my pleasure to come visit your centre!

Answers: 1-3-5-7

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« CA + STLE » = CASTLE

The first step in phonological awareness is the SYLLABLE. The easiest way for child to become familiar with the SYLLABLE is through rhythm. Separating a word into syllables means saying the word by stressing each of the SYLLABLES.

BE CAREFUL ! It is important to count the syllables the way we hear them when we speak. Don't count the letters that we don't hear. For example:

« **Carpet** » has 2 syllables : CAR + PET

« **Code** » has 1 syllable : COD (we don't hear the « e »)

« **Computer** » has 3 syllables : COM + PU + TER

« **Desk** » has 1 syllable : DESK

Different ways to stress the SYLLABLES in a word :

- Clap hands for each syllable
- Tap on a drum for each syllable
- Jump in hula hoops (one hoop per syllable)
- Take a step at each syllable

At this stage we don't count the syllables with the children. At this stage, we don't count the syllables with the children. All they need to do is clap the right number of times, while they are saying a syllable. What we are looking for is the association of one jump (or one tap on the drum) with one syllable.

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Quiz : Clap your hands once per syllable. How many times do you clap?

1. Pants
2. Letter
3. Calendar
4. Butterfly
5. Scarf
6. Orange
7. Picture
8. Sheet
9. Instance

If you are not sure how many syllables a word has, don't use that word to practice syllables with children. Otherwise, you might mix them up.

1. Pants (1 syllable)
2. Letter (2 syllables)
3. Calendar (3 syllables)
4. Butterfly (3 syllables)
5. Scarf (1 syllable)
6. Orange (2 syllables)
7. Picture (2 syllables)
8. Sheet (1 syllable)
9. Instance (2 syllables)



« MA » + « JICK » = MAGIC

Now you know that how to divide a word into syllables and find a syllable in a word. If your children need some more practice, keep practicing these two skills before you go any further. This month, **we'll figure out whether two words start with the same syllable.** Don't be afraid to use the word « syllable » with the children, they will be able to learn it.

Now that your children are aware of syllables, they can start reasoning about them, but you'll need to be an example:

- I was wondering if «garden» and «garbage» start the same. Let's listen to find out! « GARDen », « GARbage ». Yes! They start with the same syllable! They both start with GAR!
- How about « Candy » and « Chocolate » do they start with the same syllable? Listen: « CANdy », « CHOcolate ». No, « Candy » starts with « CAN » and « CHOcolate » starts with « CHO ».

After 4 or 5 examples, you can ask the children to answer the questions. It is very important to provide the right answer if the child gets it wrong. The activity is easier with words that have 2 or more syllables. Don't ask the children to think of words themselves at this point. Their job is to figure out whether the two words we say start with the same syllable or not.

Have fun! If you have any questions or want to know more, don't hesitate to contact me! It would be my pleasure to visit your centre! ☺

***It is not necessary to** have objects or images to represent the words you say. You can write the words in front of the children to get their attention.

Which words start with the same syllable?

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Computer / Clock | 6. Cardinal / Carpet |
| 2. Airplane / Airport | 7. Paintbrush / Purple |
| 3. Phone / Fantastic | 8. Market / Marker |
| 4. Principal/ Princess | 9. Window / Winner |
| 5. Dinosaur / Daddy | 10. Tambourine / Tiger |

Answers

Words that start with the same syllable

- 2. Air-plane/ Air- port**
- 4. Prin-ci-pal / Prin-cess**
- 6. Car-dinal / Car-pet**
- 8. Mar-ket / Mar-ker**
- 9. Win-dow / Win-ner**

Words that start with different syllables

- 1. Com-puter / Clock**
- 3. Phone / Fan-tastic**
- 5. Di-no-saur / Dad-dy**
- 7. Paint-brush / Pur-ple**
- 10. Tam-bour-ine / Ti-ger**

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Phonological awareness activities by degree of difficulty, for children 3 1/2- to 4-years-old

It is important to start **at the beginning**.

1. **Splitting** a word into syllables (December 2011 Capsule)
2. **Finding** a syllable in a word (January 2012 Capsule)
3. **Identifying** if 2 words start with the same syllable (February 2012 Capsule)

Rhymes

Songs, nursery rhymes and finger plays also help to develop phonological awareness. Do the ones you use on a regular basis rhyme? If you know of others, send them to me so I can share them with the rest of the LIVRE-MOI committee.

Jack and Jill : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbFbDg1v7I4>

**Jack and Jill
Went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water
Jack fell down
And broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after
Up Jack got
And home did trot
As fast as he could caper
He went to bed
To mend his head
With vinegar and brown paper.**

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Dingle Dangle Scarecrow : <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXbFK5ITBFs&feature=related>

**When all the cows were sleeping
And the sun had gone to bed
Up jumped the scarecrow
And this is what he said
I'm a jingle jangle scarecrow
With a flippy floppy hat
I can shake my hands like this
And shake my feet like that**

**When all the hens were resting
And the moon was behind a cloud
Up jumped the scarecrow and shouted very loud
I'm a jingle jangle scarecrow
With a flippy floppy hat
I can shake my hands like this
And shake my feet like that**

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« TIE + GER » = TIGER

Hi !

It's wonderful that your children are exploring syllables! This month, you can start focusing on rhymes. Start with simple rhymes, words that have one syllable: cat-hat, train-plane, bone-phone...before you move on to the more complicated process of rhyming two-syllable words: water-daughter, zero-hero, dragon-wagon...

To help children understand what a rhyme is, you can extend the sounds or repeat the word a few times in a row.

Repeating the rhyme :

We play-ay-ay all day-ay-ay.

The frog-og-og jumps off the log-og-og.

Extending the rhyme :

Let's maaaaake a caaaake.

The pooooot is hoooot.

For some words with 2 syllables or more, you can rhyme only the final syllable, or any number of syllables. For example, dinosaur-roar, kangaroo-thank you, giraffe-laugh. This is complicated and not necessary for children ages 0 to 5, but you will see it often in storybooks.

The first activity to do with children is to **ask them is 2 words rhyme**. Does « candle » rhyme with « button » (no) and does « fire » rhyme with « tire » (yes). It is important to do a few examples yourself, as a model for the children, before you expect them to answer the questions.

Enjoy the phonological awareness activities! If you have any questions or want to know more, don't hesitate to contact me! It would be my pleasure to visit your centre! ☺

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Quiz : Do these words rhyme?

1. Sock / Walk
2. Giraffe / Elephant
3. Sing / Ring
4. Song / Songs
5. Super / Trouper
6. Stable / Table
7. Red / Orange
8. Ice-cream / Jell-o

Words that rhyme

1. Sock / Walk
3. Sing / Ring
5. Super / Trouper
6. Stable / Table

Words that don't rhyme

2. Giraffe / Elephant
4. Song / Songs
7. Red / Orange
8. Ice-cream / Jell-o

Phonological awareness activities from easy to difficult : For children ages 3½ and up

It is important to start **at the beginning**.

1. **Separate** a word into syllables (December 2011 Capsule)
2. **Find** a syllable within a word (January 2012 Capsule)
3. **Determine** if two words begin with the same syllable (February 2012 Capsule)
4. **Determine** if two words rhyme (March 2012 Capsule)

Nursery rhymes, Finger plays, Songs and Poems

Nursery rhymes, finger plays, songs and poems also stimulate phonological awareness. Do the ones you use rhyme? Please send me your rhyming nursery rhymes, finger plays, songs and poems so I can share them with the other LIVRE-MOI partners.

Many of the rhymes, poems and songs you already use rhyme. For example:

1, 2, 3, 4, five,
Once I caught a fish alive,
6, 7, 8, 9, ten,
Then I threw it back again,
Why did I let it go?
Because it bit my finger so.

Here is another one:

Round and round the garden,
Goes the teddy bear,
A one step, two step,
A tickle under there!
Round and round the haystack,
Goes the little mouse,
A one step, two step,
Into his little house!

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Dear parents,

As your children grow, they are curious about the world around and they learn new things each day! Since August 2011, St-Henri and Little Burgundy have been organising activities to promote reading and help get children prepared for school.

You can help your child **be prepared to learn to read by talking about the sounds in words**. You know how children love to learn and discover!

From birth you can...

- Sing songs that rhyme Ex : Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

From the age of 3 you can...

- Point out when 2 words rhyme : house / mouse, honey / bunny, etc...

Don't hesitate to talk with your child's educator if you want more information!

Have a great day!



« WA + GON » = WAGON

Hello!

So? How is the rhyming coming along? Are the children enjoying the activities? If your children know that 2 words rhyme, they are ready for some new challenges. This month, they can identify whether or not a sound is present in a word. **This activity is more difficult than the rhyming and syllable activities.** It's important to do the activities in order and that the children are capable of doing the easier activities before beginning this month's activities.

This activity is much easier when images are associated with the sounds. You can remind them that snakes go « ssss » and that airplanes make a « v v v v » sound. At this stage, we do not talk about letters, we make **the noise** of the letter, the sound. It is best to start with one sound. When the children are used to the activity, you can add another sound or two.

Ask them: Do you hear « ssss » in « sssilly » ? Yes! There is a snake sound in the word sssilly. Do you hear it? SSSilly! There is also a snake sound in my name, listen: « SSSophie ! » We hear the sound « sssss ». Then ask the children if they hear the same sound in other words.

Enjoy the phonological awareness activities! If you have any questions or want to know more, **don't hesitate to contact me!** It would be my pleasure to visit your centre! 😊

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Quiz : Do you hear the sound « ssss » in the following words?

1. Snake
2. Pass
3. Encyclopedia
4. House
5. Thumb
6. Donald
7. Solid
8. Cycle
9. Fashion

Answers

Words with « sss »

1. Snake
2. Pass
3. Encyclopedia
4. House
7. Solid
8. Cycle

Words without « sss »

5. Thumb
6. Donald
9. Fashion

Phonological awareness activities from easy to difficult : For children ages 3½ and up

It is important to start **at the beginning**.

1. **Separate** a word into syllables (December 2011 Capsule)
2. **Find** a syllable within a word (January 2012 Capsule)
3. **Determine** if two words begin with the same syllable (February 2012 Capsule)
4. **Determine** if two words rhyme (March 2012 Capsule)
5. **Identify** a sound in a word (April 2012 Capsule)