



## Mississippi Mills Public Library

### At-home Kindergarten Literacy Kits – Kit 1

These activities can be done at home to help your child practice important skills for reading. Activities in this kit focus on breaking spoken words into syllables and teaching letters for consonant sounds. Developing these skills will help your child to become a fluent reader.

**Phonological Awareness** – Understanding that words are made up of syllables and sounds.

*Why is this important?*

Words are made up of sounds, and letters are used to represent these sounds. Children need to understand this before they can learn to read. When a child can break down a spoken word to identify each syllable and sound they hear, it makes it easier for them to build-up words when reading. Phonological awareness activities should not include words or text- the focus is on the sounds the child hears. 5 minutes of daily practice in phonological awareness has a big positive impact on children’s literacy development and reading fluency.

Activity Instructions:

1. Explain to your child that words are made up of parts and these parts are called syllables.
2. Explain that when you hear a word, you can break it into smaller pieces by listening for the syllables.
3. Cut out the *Phonological Awareness Icons* and use the *Sorting Syllables* sheet to practice counting the syllables in each word.

Try tapping your arm, or the table once for each syllable to make this activity more tactile. Or use bread/milk bag ties (or paperclips, or crayons, or BINGO chips, etc.) to count each syllable, to make the activity more visual. *Just make sure not to use text or letters- instead focus on the sounds you hear in each word.*

*Answers (for parents):*

A syllable is a vowel **sound** in a word. Note that this is not always the same as the number of vowel letters in the written word. This is why images are used for this sorting task instead of printed words. The words for each icon have been broken into syllables in the chart below:

1-syllable words	2-syllable words	3-syllable words
clock	a pple	but ter fly
dog	tooth brush	gin ger bread
tree	snow man	ice cream cone
house	mail box	vol ca no

### Other Practice Activities for Phonological Awareness:

**Scavenger hunt** – Have your child find things around the house that have 1, 2, or 3 syllables. They can draw these items, or just practice counting the syllables.

**I Spy** – “I spy with my little eye, something with... 3 syllables” A twist on this classic game can make it easy to practice counting syllables anywhere.

### **Phonics** – Understanding the link between sounds and letters.

#### *Why is this important?*

Letters are used to represent sounds. When a child reads, they see the letters on a page, and they must make the connection between each letter and the sound it makes. For phonics activities, always talk about the sound for a letter. When doing this, make sure to say only the sound (e.g., for the letter *m* say the sound /m/ as “mmmm” and not “muh”). You can also call each letter by its name (like in the alphabet song), but make sure the focus is on the *sound* that the letter makes.

#### Activity Instructions:

1. Using the attached phonics worksheet, show your child the letters at the bottom of the worksheet and tell them what sound each letter represents.
2. Then, point to each picture and say the word out loud.
3. Next, read the printed letters beside the picture. Repeat the word slowly while pointing to the picture, then slowly read the printed letters while running your finger under each letter as you say the sound.
4. Try to have your child identify the missing sound, then print the letter for that sound in the blank space on the worksheet to complete the word..

For example, point to the picture of the cat and say “cat” then run your finger under the blank space and printed letters. While pointing to the *a*, say the sound /a/ (i.e., “aaahh”) and while pointing to the *t* say the sound /t/. Ask your child what sound is missing and try to have them tell you that the /k/ sound is missing. Then go through the letters again to find the letter that is used for the missing sound.

*Answers (for parents):* cat, bed, dog, pin, sun, web, tap

### Other Practice Activities for Phonics:

**Labels** – As you practice consonant sounds with your child, practice finding objects around your house that have that sound in the word (e.g., *window* has the sound /w/ at the beginning and the end of the word). Create labels for these words to stick the objects so that your child can see the labels as they walk around the house. This will increase the text they see during the day.

**Signs** – When you are out for a walk or at the store with your child, point out signs and labels that have the letters you are practicing at home. Learning to recognise letters in different fonts and places will help to reinforce the sounds that each letter makes.

### More Ways to Support Literacy Development at Home:

- Set an example! Let your child see you read.
- Find things your child is interested in reading!
- Make words a focus on trips and outings- at grocery stores, restaurants, shopping malls, arenas, on roadways- there are too many examples to list.
  - o Find the first and last sounds in the words
  - o Count the number of syllables in the words
  - o Read signs, posters, and labels
- Keep a journal of letters and sounds that are tricky- with pictures of objects to go with them
- Review tricky sounds and letters first, before reading a story with those sounds.
- Have a set of magnetic letters on your fridge.
- Make the library a special, fun place.
- Read every day- break it into three 5-minute chunks if need be but do it daily with your child.
- Try to link books to your child's life, or to another story or event they know.
- Though it may be challenging for your child, try to make reading a joy, not a frustration.
- Be your child's biggest fan. They need your support and encouragement!

Thank you for your support and keep up the great work!

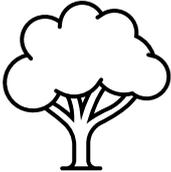
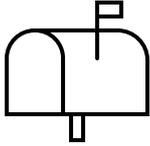


## Sorting Syllables

1 Syllable	2 Syllables	3 Syllables

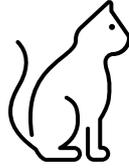


Phonological Awareness Icons (to cut out and then sort):

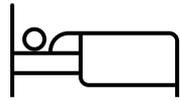
		
		
		
		



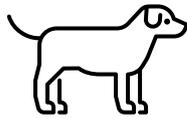
Phonics Worksheet



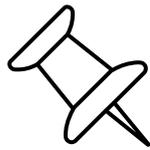
\_\_at



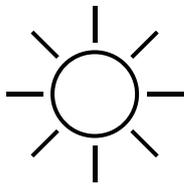
\_\_ed



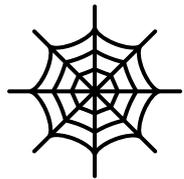
\_\_og



\_\_in



\_\_un



\_\_eb



\_\_ap

p	b	w	t	d	s	c
---	---	---	---	---	---	---