



Mississippi Mills Public Library

At-home Kindergarten Literacy Kits – Kit 2

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 sounds and teaching letters for vowel 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 sounds, and combining sounds together is how we make different words when we speak.
2. Explain that when you hear a word, you can break it into smaller pieces by listening for the sounds.
3. Cut out the *Phonological Awareness Icons* and use the *Sorting Sounds* sheet to practice counting the number of sounds in each word.

Using bread/milk bag ties (or paperclips, or crayons, or BINGO chips, etc.) as counters can make the sounds you are saying and hearing more concrete and make this activity more tactile and visual. *Just make sure not to use text or letters- instead focus on the sounds you hear in each word.*

Answers (for parents):

The focus for this activity is on **sounds** and not letters. This is why images are used for this sorting task instead of printed words. The words for each icon have been broken into sounds in the chart below:

2-sound words	3-sound words	4-sound words
sh oe	t r ee	c l o c k
e gg	a pp le	t r ai n
p ie	d o g	d r u m
t ie	h o u s e	s p o o n

Other Practice Activities for Phonological Awareness:

Scavenger hunt – Have your child find things around the house that have 2, 3, or 4 sounds. They can draw these items, or just practice counting the sounds. Or give your child a sound (e.g., /f/) and see how many objects they can find that start with that sound.

I Spy – “I spy with my little eye, something that starts with the sound... /m/” choose a sound for an object you see (e.g., /m/ for mug). Make sure to say only the sound (e.g., “mmm” and not “muh” for the sound /m/). A twist on this classic game can make it easy to practice breaking words into sounds anywhere. Once your child can easily identify the first sound in a word, practice identifying the last sound in a word (e.g., “I spy something that ends with /m/”).

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 “mmm” 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. Point to each picture and say the word out loud, or have your child say the word out loud.
3. Next, read the printed letters beside the picture. When doing this, 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.
For example, point to the picture of the cat and say “cat” then run your finger under c while saying the sound /k/, don’t say any sound while pointing to the blank space, then say the /t/ sound while pointing to the t.
4. Try to have your child identify the missing sound.
For example, for the word cat, ask your child what sound is missing and try to have them tell you that the /a/ sound is missing. If they are not sure, repeat the word again, but say the /a/ sound while pointing to the blank space. Then ask your child for the sound again.
5. Once they say the correct sound, go through the letters again to find the letter that is used for the missing sound. Have your child try printing the letter in the blank space on the page to complete the word.

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:

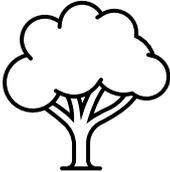
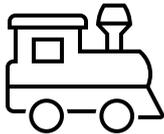
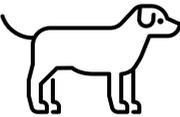
- Set an example! Let your child see you read.
- Find things your child is interested in reading!
- Make words a focus on trips and outings- at grocery stores, restaurants, shopping malls, arenas, on roadways- there are too many examples to list.
 - o Find the first and last sounds in the words
 - o 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 Sounds

2 Sounds	3 Sounds	4 Sounds

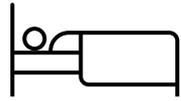
Phonological Awareness Icons (to cut out):

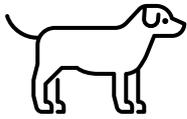
Phonics Worksheet



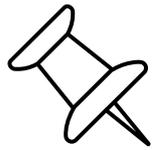
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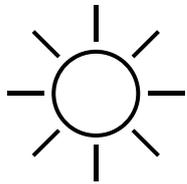
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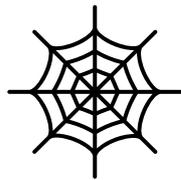
d _ _ g



p _ _ n



s _ _ n



w _ _ b



t _ _ p

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