## Level 1

Rhyming Activities

> This level usually begins at age three or four. Rhyming is based on common sound patterns within words. Children learn to group words together according to the sound patterns. For example, bug, hug, and rug would be rhyming words.

Have your child name each picture in each row. If the words rhyme, draw circles around each picture.













Catts & Vartianinen (1993)

Name the pictures in each row. If the words rhyme, draw a line through each of the pictures.







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Read each word pair to your child. Ask him to tell you if the two words rhyme.

1. hot	pot	21. big	fig
2. pray	hay	22. girl	boy
3. sink	snake	23. cook	book
4. wing	swing	24. lock	block
5. cut	knife	25. fog	log
6. happy	sad	26. dine	nickel
7. shirt	hurt	27. time	lime
8. mouse	house	28. pail	mail
9. dress	doll	29. fall	Paul
10. draw	color	30. most	fast
11. tie	die	31. hop	tip
12. man	can	32. ham	ran
13. gum	some	33. gap	tap
14. find	told	34. lost	first
15. cake	lake	35. most	ghost
16. drink	sink	36. paper	pencil
17. tight	flight	37. boy	joy
18. wig	pig	38. kite	bite
19. fly	bug	39. tent	Kent
20. card	car	40. hair	part

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#### **Odd Word Out**

Ask your child to listen closely to three words that you will say out loud.

Explain that only two of these words share a common sound. Have your child identify the word that does not belong.

Say the words slowly one at a time, and then have your child hold up one, two, or three fingers to represent which of the three is the odd word out. If the first word is the odd word out then your child would hold up one finger.

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#### Listen and Draw

Give your child a simple word.

Have your child draw a picture that rhymes with the word.

For example, if the word was /can/, your child could draw a picture of a /fan/.

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#### **Rhyming Sentences**

Have your child listen to sentences you give to them and see if they can fill in the missing rhyming word. Here are some examples:

Look at that cat wearing a \_\_\_\_\_. (hat)

I see a frog sitting on a \_\_\_\_\_. (log, dog, hog)

Have you ever seen a bear with curly brown \_\_\_\_\_? (hair)

Watch the fox hop in the \_\_\_\_\_. (box)

Look at the man trip over the \_\_\_\_\_. (can, fan, pan)

I see a boy playing with a \_\_\_\_\_. (toy)

#### **Rhyming Charades**

Cut up the rhyming pictures from this page and glue the pictures on index cards.

Then your child needs to think of a word that rhymes with the picture and act it out.

For example, if the card had a picture of a stick, your child could at out the word lick.



wig.....your child could act out a pig or being big



clown.....your child could act out a frown



bug.....your child could act out a hug



stick.....your child could act out a kick or a lick



kite.....your child could act out a bite



tie.....your child could act out a bye or fly

Catts & Vartianinen (1993)

# Alliteration

# Activities

Alliteration is also listening for common sound patterns, but instead children are listening for common sounds at the beginning of words. For instance, the silly snake swam slowly in the swamp.

#### **Going Shopping**

Pick a sound such as /s/. The first person playing says "I went shopping and I bought ....." Each player needs to start their item that they bought with the letter /s/.

For example: "I went shopping and I bought <u>s</u>andals." The next person would say the same thing, "I went shopping and I bought sandals and <u>s</u>nakes."

The goal is to try to keep going until you run out of items to purchase.

Love & Reilly (1996)

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#### Wacky Sentences

Have your child create names that go with each wacky sentence or phrase.

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Fred, Frank, Fran...) the fearless flying friend.
- 2. Baby \_\_\_\_\_ (Becca, Becky, Brad...) brought broccoli to the beach.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_(Patti, Peter, Paul...) paints perfect pictures of his/her puppy.
- 4. (Brad, Brenda, Bethy...) blows big bubbles with his blueberry bubble gum.
- 5. Sammy the silly snake saw \_\_\_\_\_ (Sally, Sussie, Sam...) standing on the sidewalk.
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_ (Tom, Tammie, Tony...) traveled to Toledo to teach turtles to talk.
- 7. Handy \_\_\_\_\_ (Harry, Helen, Henry...) hurried to hammer his/her hardwood floors.
- 8. Dirty \_\_\_\_\_ (Dan, Daniel, Darcy...) dropped dishes down his/her driveway.
- 9. Cranky \_\_\_\_\_ (Carla, Cody, Carol...) crawled clumsily on the carpet.
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_ (Albert, Allison...) the alligator ate apples at the airport.

#### **Faces of Emotions**

Have your child label each person's face with an emotion. Each person's emotion must start with the same letter. For example, "\_\_\_\_\_ (fearful) Fred."



Love & Reilly (1996)

#### **Books With Alliteration**

ABC of Monsters by Deborah Niland (McGraw)

All About Arthur (an absolutely absurd ape) by E. Carle (Franklin Watts)

*Alphabears* by K. Hague (Henry Holt)

Animalia by G. Base, (Abrams)

Dinosaurs Chase by C. Otto (HarperCollins)

*Dr. Seuss 's ABC* by Dr. Seuss (Random House)

*Faint Frogs Feeling Feverish and Other Terrifically Tantalizing Tongue Twisters* by L. Obligade (Vicking)

*Six Sick Sheep: 101 Tongue Twisters* by J. Cole and S. Calmenson (Beech Tree)

Zoophabets by R. Tallon (Scholastic, 1979)

*Tom's Pocket* by Sarah Garland (Picture Puffin)

*Princess Prunella and the Purple Peanut* by Margaret Atwood (Key Porter Kids)

### Level 2



Children should have developed this skill by age four or five. In this level children learn to listen and identify syllables such as: 1 syllable- cat 2 syllabe- car/pet 3 syllabe- ba/na/na

#### Syllable Boxes (2 syllable words)

Have your child look at the pictures listed below. Each word picture has the same number of syllables, as there are squares. As the child says each picture they are to move a token into a box under the picture. Then your child needs to say the whole word without any pauses.



#### Syllable Boxes (1 and 2 syllable words)













#### Syllable Boxes (1,2, and 3 syllable words)





#### Syllable boxes without pictures

Have your child place three tokens above the line. Give your child a word (suggested list of words on the next page). Then have your child say each syllable of a word as they move the token into a square.



Hugh Catts & Tina Vartianinen (1993)

1 syllable words	2 syllable words	3 syllable words
mom	booklet	tornado
dad	paper	screwdriver
dog	dragon	calendar
man	flower	grasshopper
boy	monster	dragonfly
ball	baby	octopus
girl	pocket	wastebasket
hose	raisin	skeleton
tree	basket	bananas
bee	mother	radio
school	kitchen	tomato
bath	toothpaste	broccoli
bus	tulip	spaghetti
me	butter	wheelbarrow
brown	cowboy	woodpecker
cup	jungle	telephone
board	cupcake	crocodile
game	lion	kangaroo
play	dessert	hamburger

Before beginning have your child pick out a bingo board. Make sure your child knows what each picture represents. Listed at the bottom of this page is a list of what each picture represents and how the syllables are broken up.

On an index card write number one, then number two on the next index card, and write number three, and four on the last card. Have the cards faced down on the table.

Have your child start by picking from those four index cards without seeing what number is on the card.

Your child must din on his card a picture whose name has the same number of syllables as the number indicated on the index card.

Your child then places a marker on the picture.

The player who first covers three in a row, diagonally, vertically, or horizontally is the winner. You can also see who gets their whole board filled first can also be the winner.

Board #1	Board #2	Board #3	Board #4
di/no/saur- 3	to/ma/to- 3	duck- 1	pho/to/gra/pher- 4
rhin/o/cer/os- 4	horse- 1	ac/cor/di/on- 4	mouse- 1
vol/ca/no- 3	waste/bas/ket- 3	bi/cy/cle- 3	bath/tub- 2
house- 1	han/ger- 2	train- 1	kite- 1
doc/tor- 2	spa/ghet/ti- 3	um/brel/la- 3	hel/i/cop/ter- 4
can/dle- 2	tel/e/vi/sion- 4	tel/e/vi/sion- 4	bed- 1
clown- 1	bi/noc/u/lars- 4	mush/rooms- 2	drag/on/fly- 3
el/e/va/tor- 4	oc/to/pus- 3	pig- 1	wheel/bar/row- 3
tur/tle- 2	rose- 1	broc/co/li- 3	bear- 1



Board #1



Board #2

Image: state s

Board #3

Image: stateImage: state</t

Board #4

#### Syllable Detective

Have your child say things they see in your house or outside in the yard. Have them work out how many syllables are in each name then write the names in the correct boxes.

1 Syllable	2 Syllable
3 Syllable	4 Syllable

Love & Reilly (1996)

## Level 3 Onset and Rime

Onset and rime skills should be developed around age six. The onset is the first sound in the word and the rime is the common sound pattern that follows. For example, in the word bug, /b/ is the onset and /ug/ is the rime. Children are asked to manipulate the onset in the word like bug. The child is asked to change the /b/ to /h/ to form the new word hug.

#### **Changing Words**

Have your child say a word, change the beginning sound to another and say the new word.

- 1. Say /bat/. Change /b/ to /h/. (hat)
- 2. Say /car/. Change /c/ to /f/. (far)
- 3. Say /lip/. Change /l/ to /t/. (tip)
- 4. Say /dog/. Change /d/ to /l/. (log)
- 5. Say /man/. Change /m/ to /c/. (can)
- 6. Say /net/. Change /n/ to /g/. (get)
- 7. Say /rain/. Change /r/ to /p/. (pain)
- 8. Say /hop/. Change /h/ to /t/. (top)
- 9. Say /miss/. Change /m/ to /k/. (kiss)
- 10. Say /lake/. Change /l/ to /r/. (rake)
- 11. Say /bell/. Change /b/ to /w/. (well)
- 12. Say /wig/. Change /w/ to /d/. (dig)
- 13. Say /best/. Change /b/ to /v/. (vest)
- 14. Say /dock/. Change /d/ to /s/. (sock)
- 15. Say /king/. Change /k/ to /w/. (wing)

#### **Zippity Switch**

Use the song below and switch the beginning sounds in the verse to other sounds.

Sing to the tune of "Zippity-Do-Da".

Hippity-ho-hah, Hippity-hay, My, oh my, what a wonderful day. Plenty of sunshine coming my way. Hippity-ho-hah, Hippity-hay.

Repeat song several times using different beginning sounds. For example Bippity-bo-bah, Tippity-to-tah...

Fitzpatrick (1997)

### Level 4

Awareness of Beginning, Middle, and Ending Sounds

> This stage also should be developed around age six. Children are being taught to listen for and identify the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words.

#### **Scavenger Hunt**

Your child will be hunting for objects to put in his bag that begin or end with a specific sound.

Tell your child what sound he will be hunting for and whether it should be at the beginning or ending of the objects' names.

Give your child a paper bag and time to search for objects to fill his bag.

An example would be if your child was looking for things beginning with /s/, he could find a scarf, a shoe, soap, etc., to place in his bag.

Another option to this activity would be to look in magazines or newspaper ads for pictures of things that begin or end with the given sound. A collage could be made on a separate piece of paper using all of the pictures found.

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#### Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

Tell your child he will be listening for a specific sound at the beginning, middle or end of the word (you will specify). Then give your child a list of words, one at a time.

Your child should give you a "thumbs up" if he hears the sound or a "thumbs down" if he does not hear the sound.

Below are some examples of words that could be used. Ask your child "Is there an.....

/s/ in the beginning?	/s/ in the ending?	/s/ in the middle?
star	kiss	smile
sand	sun	fasten
cat	fly	mister
mouse	pass	sound
santa	sit	listen
horse	bus	whistle
snake	girls	things
silly	this	ducks
spin	shoe	horses
bus	cross	passing

Fitzpatrick, 1997

#### **Middle Sound Search**

Identify a sound for your child to listen for.

Say two words, one of which contains the correct middle sound.

Your child should identify which of the two words has the correct middle sound by showing you one finger to represent the first word, or two fingers to represent the second word.

Examples:

/a/	1	/e/		/i/	
mad	mid	sit	set	ship	shop
sick	sack	pan	pen	trap	trip
tan	ten	ten	tin	hunt	hint
tap	top	fell	fall	wit	wet
run	ran	will	well	win	won
pot	pat	not	net	hall	hill
fan	fun	red	rod	lad	lid
cob	cab	peg	pig	puck	pick
hat	hit	step	stop	sick	sock
lip	lap	jut	jet	pin	pen
/o/ sock rat	sick rot	/u/ fun rut	fan rat	/a/ same time	Sam tame
hit	hot	cob	cub	coke	cake
job	jab	ran	run	plate	plot
log	leg	not	nut	cape	keep
hop	hip	him	hum	foam	fame
pet	pot	tuck	tack	stain	stone
chop	chap	log	lug	pail	pole
rack	rock	bug	beg	sleet	slate
pup	pop	puck	pick	glide	glade

/e/		/i	/	/0/	
sweep sleet wake cream pope nice meat mole	swipe slate week crime peep niece mate meal	/i kite right tame pole my mule like have	/ Kate rate time pile may mile lake hive	toad sap pole cope mate pipe glow coke	tide soap peel keep moat pope glue cake
sail keep	seal cope	go tide	guy toad	mine tone	moan teen

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#### **Roll the Sound**

You will need a ball to roll on the floor or ground for this activity.

Say a word and roll the ball to your child.

Your child will say a new word beginning with the last sound in your word and then roll the ball back to you.

Roll the ball back and forth continuing to make new words from the last sound in the other's word.

For instance, if you started with the word /ball/ your child would say the word /lap/. Then you would continue to make another word starting with /p/.

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#### Where's That Sound?

For this activity, use one of the stretched out animal pictures provided on the following page.

Give your child a specific sound to listen for.

Then give him a word that contains the sound at the beginning, middle, or end of the word.

Your child should point to the correct spot on the animal to identify where the sound is.







Fitzpatrick, 1997

### Level 5

# Phoneme

Blending

Phoneme blending should be acquired by age six. Phonemes are each of the individual sounds that make up a word. For example, the word bat would contain three phonemes: /b/, /a/, and /t/. Initially, children are given the phonemes and the child blends them together to form the word.

#### Listen and Draw

Break apart a word into its phonemes for your child.

He will listen to the sounds and draw a picture of what he heard.

Begin by using short, simple words such as cat, dog, leg, etc.

For example, if you chose the word /cat/, you would say each of the phonemes slowly (/c/, /a/, and /t/) and your child would draw a picture of a cat.

Word List:

dog (/d/, /o/, /g/)	leg (/l/, /e/, /g/)
jeep (/j/, /ee/, /p/)	fan (/f/, /a/, /n/)
sun (/s/, /u/, /n/)	head (/h/, /e/, /d/)
shoe (/sh/, /oo/)	pig (/p/, /i/, /g/)
hill (/h/, /i/, /l/)	apple (/a/, /p/, /l/)
man (/m/, /a/, /n/)	net (/n/, /e/, /t/)
rug (/r/, /u/, /g/)	jet (/j/, /e/, /t/)
pot (/p/, /o/, /t/)	chip (/ch/, /i/, /p/)
fin (/f/, /i/, /n/)	web (/w/, /e/, /b/)
	jeep (/j/, /ee/, /p/) sun (/s/, /u/, /n/) shoe (/sh/, /oo/) hill (/h/, /i/, /l/) man (/m/, /a/, /n/) rug (/r/, /u/, /g/) pot (/p/, /o/, /t/)

#### **Rubber Band Stretch**

You will need a rubber band for your child to stretch.

Say the sounds in a word as your child stretches the rubber band.

Then, while your child lets the rubber band come back together, he will put the sounds together to say the word.

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\_\_\_\_\_

#### Echo, Echo, Echo!

Tell your child that you are going to play an echo game.

Say a word by echoing each of its phonemes. For example, /t/, /t/, /a/, /p/, /p/, /p/, would be the word /tap/.

Your child will listen to the echo and tell you the word.

You may use the word list from the Listen and Draw activity or choose your own.

Fitzpatrick, 1997

## Level 6 Phoneme



This stage generally occurs around ages six and seven. Once children are successful at blending phonemes given to them, they begin breaking the words into phonemes on their own.

#### **Rubber Band Stretch**

This is similar to the Rubber Band Stretch in the previous section of activities, however, in this section, you will be switching roles with your child.

This time your child will be the one identifying each sound as he stretches out the rubber band.

When he lets the rubber band go back together, he can say the word or he can have you say the word.

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#### Shoulder, Elbow, Hand

Give your child one of the words from the word list on the following page. Have him break the word into its phonemes while tapping the sounds on his shoulder, elbow, and hand.

For the word /can/, your child would say the word /can/, tap /c/ on his shoulder, /a/ on his elbow, /n/ on his hand, and end by again saying the word /can/.

Another option to this activity would be to use the stretched-out animal pictures from the activity, Show Where the Sound Is. Your child would use the beginning, middle, and end of the picture to tap out each sound.

Fitzpatrick, 1997

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#### **Snack Separator**

You can use your child's snack to practice phoneme segmentation!

Using crackers, fruit snacks, etc., your child will move some of his snack pieces in a line to represent each of the sounds in a given word.

For example, if your child was using fish crackers and was given the word cat, he would do the following:



#### Word List

cat	kit	ham	bag	dog	sit
pup	pet	bug	hut	sap	lip
fig	jet	fish	cub	get	men
web	yes	box	lock	fall	cot
тор	tub	ten	six	fin	mix
luck	hot	рор	cup	fan	nut
rug	sad	net	bus	led	chill
kiss	sell	kid	hip	gum	that
with	ship	jog	sock	mud	hen
goat	meat	bait	cute	hope	bite
soap	rain	cane	fine	bean	game
rope	sheet	tube	late	jeep	mail
dime	cake	five	hole	wide	cone
gate	rose	boat	pail	fight	seat
shake	whale	feet	cube	shine	cheap



## Phoneme



This last level occurs at age seven or beyond. Children learn to substitute a new phoneme for a beginning, middle, or end phonemes, this forming a new word. For example, the child may be asked to change the words.

The beginning /m/ in man to a /t/ sound to make the word tan.

The middle /a/ in man to an /e/ to make the word men.

The ending /n/ in man to a /d/ to make mad.

#### **Sound Switch**

Tell your child that you are going to be playing a word game in which he will be making new words by replacing the beginning, middle, or ending sound with a new sound.

Identify the sound that he will be using to replace other sounds.

Then identify where in the word he will be replacing the sound.

For instance, if /s/ is the sound he will be using and he is going to be replacing the beginning, give him the word /top/ and he should make /sop/.

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#### The Chain Game

Choose a word with three letters.

Have your child switch one letter in the word to make a new word.

If your child were to start with the word /hip/, he could make the following chain:

hip, hit, hot, hop, pop, pot, not, nut, hut, hug, etc.

Love & Reilly, 1996

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#### Switcheroo

On the page that follows, use the pictures to help your child read the corresponding word.

Your child will switch a letter to make a new word that matches the picture to the right.

Love & Reilly, 1996



<u>man</u> to





<u>hot</u> to





<u>cat</u> to





<u>cab</u> to





<u>ram</u> to

