

Phonological Awareness Skills

According to Robinson and Salter (1997), phonological awareness skills break down into the following tasks:

- ❖ Rhyming
 - Identifying rhyming pairs (Do 'hat' and 'cat' rhyme?)
 - Producing a word to rhyme with a given word (What rhymes with 'tan'?)
- ❖ Segmentation
 - Breaking sentences into words (Clap for each word in: 'I have a cat'.)
 - Breaking words into syllables (Clap or say the syllables in: 'tel-e-phone')
 - Breaking words into individual sounds (what are the sounds in 'him'?)
- ❖ Isolation
 - Identifying the initial sound in a word (What is the first sound in 'ham'?)
 - Identifying the final sound in a word (What is the last sound in 'ham'?)
 - Identifying the medial sound in a word (What is the middle sound in 'ham'?)
- ❖ Deletion
 - Deleting a part of a word (Say 'obey', say it again without the 'bey')
 - Deleting a sound in a word (Say 'ham', say it again without the 'h')
- ❖ Substitution
 - Changing a sound in a word (Say 'hat', change the 'h' to 'm')
- ❖ Blending
 - Blending parts of a word together (What word is this: ta - ble?)
 - Blending sounds together to form a word (What word is this: p - a - t?)

Robertson and Salter, in The Phonological Awareness Test, also include sections on grapheme identification, decoding and invented spelling. These sections have not been included for the purposes of this book, as learning the sounds in Itchy's Alphabet is a pre-requisite to these skill areas.

Source: Robertson, Carolyn and Wanda Salter. The Phonological Awareness Test. LinguSystems, Inc. East Moline, IL. 1997