






# Introduction



Meet the needs of various children with the Specific Skills series. Here at your fingertips is a collection of activities to foster in children an awareness of how spoken words can be broken down into the smallest units known as phonemes, or discrete sounds. The small-group lessons, hands-on activities, and easy-to-play games focus on the skills of recognizing, isolating, identifying, blending, and manipulating phonemes. In addition, this reproducible resource book offers tools for assessing each child's level of phonemic awareness.



*Specific Skills: Phonemic Awareness* supports the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) and IRA (International Reading Association) position statement by providing instructional materials that sensitize children to spoken sounds, build their awareness of rhyme and phonemes, and engage them in activities and explicit lessons for more advanced skill development. According to the report issued by the National Reading Panel, the mastery of these essential phonemic awareness skills actually enables beginning readers to understand that letters in printed words have associated sounds that can also be blended and manipulated.



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Dear Parent,

Over the course of the next several weeks, our class will be learning about phonemic awareness (the ability to recognize and use the individual sounds in words). We will be completing activity sheets and participating in hands-on, fun activities to help better understand phonemic concepts.

You may see some of the activity sheets in your child's homework folder. Review the work with him/her. Note the accomplishments and/or the problems he/she may be having with phonemes (the smallest part of sound in a spoken word). As you share a bedtime story with your child each night, encourage and assist him/her in listening for the different phonemes. Discuss the placement of phonemes in words.

Please help your child maintain a good attitude and self-confidence about phonemic awareness. This will promote an eagerness to read as well as the knowledge that we are all working together to achieve success!

Thank you so much for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

