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Phonemic Awareness is defined as the understanding that a word is made up of a series of discrete sounds (phonemes) and the ability to identify and manipulate those sounds in spoken words.

Language Games

Orally guide your child to concentrate on the first phoneme in a word and to discover how it sounds and feels when spoken in isolation (by itself). They can make new words by taking the initial sound away; for instance **sand** becomes **and** when we take away /s/. Children can create new words by putting a sound in front of a word; for example, /m/ in front of **ash** becomes **mash**.

Teacher Tips

Weekly Work

Initial Sounds

Since the initial phonemes (sounds) of words are easier to distinguish and attend to than the middle or final sounds we concentrate on them first. Below are few games/activities you can play with your child.

Familiar Words: Choose a word such as your child's name or your pet's name. Together, think of words that begin with the same sound. For example, if your dog's name is *Spot*, you could say *Silly Spot...or Super Silly Spot*.

Mystery Letter: Place foam or magnet letters in a grab bag. Choose letters that you wish to emphasize; perhaps the ones we have been learning at school. You and your child take turns pulling out a letter and naming as many words as possible that start with the same sound. If she/he pulls out a S, you could say snake, sun, snow, sand, etc.

Collage: Some children have a difficult time with a particular letter sound. Perhaps your child needs extra work on the letter N. Print the letter N in both upper and lower case at the top of a piece of Bristol board. Using magazines, flyers, pictures of household items using your digital camera or phone, cut out pictures beginning with this letter to a make collage.

Connections

This week's edition of Teacher Tips highlights outcomes for:

Reading and Viewing—Understand basic concepts of print including directionality, word space, letter and sound; begin to use knowledge of sound-symbol relationship as one reading cue (eg initial consonants)

Writing and Representing— Understand that print carries a message; take risks with temporary spelling as a strategy for getting ideas on paper; and establish one to one correspondence between spoken and written words.

B.I.B. Friday

You and your child are planning a trip, but the only items you can bring have to start with the same initial phoneme (sound) as your name. So, if your name is **Michael**, you can bring **mustard** and **marbles**, but you can't bring **ketchup**! Have fun packing and don't forget to complete the sheet by Friday for your child to share!