

Glossary of Preschool Literacy Terms

Onsets – the consonant sounds that precede (are before) a vowel sound in a syllable (some syllables have no onsets, ie. Ant)

Phonemes – the smallest units of sound (/m/, /b/, /ch/, for example)

Phonemic awareness – sensitivity to the smallest units of sounds, phonemes, a subset of phonological awareness

Phonological awareness – sensitivity to the sound structure of language (manipulation of sound)

Rimes – the vowel sound and any sound after it in a syllable (all syllables have rime).