

PHONEMIC AWARENESS AND PHONICS

When we talk about phonemic awareness, we are not talking about phonics. Phonics refers to learning the sounds that letters and letter combinations represent and using that knowledge to sound out words. Phonemic awareness, on the other hand, is the recognition that speech is made up of a series of individual sounds. It is the ability to:

Rhyme: hear, identify and match similar word patterns

Blending: hear how sounds are put together to make words

Segmenting: separating sentences into words, words into syllables and syllables into sounds

Manipulation: alter and rearrange sounds to create new words

Without phonemic awareness, teaching a child the sounds that letters represent in speech makes little sense.