



Supporting Reading Readiness at Home

ONE

Beginning readers need a strong foundational understanding of oral language and sounds before they can make meaning of written words. Educators refer to understanding sounds in words as phonological awareness. Phonological Awareness is [defined by Alberta Health](#) as “being able to hear and make sense of the sounds that make up words.” There are many pieces of understanding that combine to make up phonological awareness, including rhyming, beginning, middle and end sounds, breaking up words, blending, and letter-sound associations. Parents can support their children as early readers by spending time with their children on activities that support awareness of sounds in words.

TWO

This [ARPDC Literacy Guide to Phonological Awareness](#) suggests some great places for parents and teachers to start, including these:

1. Detecting Rhymes: Read poems with predictable rhyming words and patterns. [Nursery rhymes](#) offer a fun way to begin to play with poetry together.
2. Use kinesthetic activities to step or jump for each syllable. Fun videos like those from [Jack Hartman](#) get kids moving and rhyming.

THREE

Check out this [ARPDC document](#) with a list of videos to support anyone wanting to teach Phonological Awareness to beginning readers.

The Regional Educational Laboratory Program at Florida State University has this helpful resource: [Supporting Your Child’s Reading at Home](#).

Educator Katie Garner has created the Secret Stories to help emerging readers make sense of the sounds that letters make. You can find more information on her [website](#) or [Youtube channel](#).