Phonological Awareness is an understanding that our language is made up of individual sounds that blend together to form syllables and words. Phonological Awareness skills are IMPORTANT for reading success. Children with good phonological awareness skills generally do better with reading and spelling.

**The following activities target phonological awareness:**

1. To develop awareness of rhyme, sing songs, read rhyming stories and say familiar rhymes with your child. Sing a part of a familiar song and have your child fill in the missing rhyming word. Draw attention to the rhyming words and discuss how words rhyme. Try and come up with words that rhyme. Give your child 2 words and ask them if they rhyme.

2. Sharing ABC books with your child is a great way to develop knowledge of letter names, letter sounds, and awareness of sounds within spoken words. As you read with your child, talk about the sound letters make. Generate other words that begin with a given sound. “Here is the letter S, the letter S says “ssssss”, what words start with the /s/ sound?” Go on a scavenger hunt for things in the house or outside that start with a given sound, for example, “Let’s find 10 things that start with the /s/ sound”.

3. Play hopscotch and say a 3-5 word sentence (My name is __________). Encourage your child to jump 1 space for each word in the sentences. Take turns.

4. Another way to draw your child’s attention to letter names and sounds is to draw their attention to print in their environment. For example, talk about letters and sounds you see on signs, in books, on labels, etc. The refrigerator is a great place to post notes to family members. The calendar can also be used to highlight the importance of letters and words. By repeating and drawing your child’s attention to print, you are helping your child develop skills for reading and writing.

5. Children learn from the examples of important adults in their lives. One area where adult examples are very powerful is in the development of reading and writing. Reading books, magazines, newspapers in the presence of your child demonstrates the importance of reading. Your child sees the importance of writing in daily tasks such as writing grocery lists, notes, etc. Draw your child’s attention to these types of activities and encourage your child to be active in these tasks, for example, “I am writing a grocery list, can you help me by drawing a picture of one item that we need and then we can write the word together?”

6. When reading stories together ask the following questions:
   - What, who, where, when
   - What do you think will happen next?
   - Why did they do that?

7. Take a ball and bounce, kick or throw 1 time for each word in a sentence.

8. Pick a target sound and read a page in a book. Ask for child to listen for all the words that start with that sound. When they hear a word that starts with the sound they can give a thumbs up.