

Phonological awareness skill	Description	Level	Developmental expectation
<i>Word awareness</i>	Segments sentences into words	Shallow	Early to middle preschool
<i>Syllable awareness</i>	Segments multisyllable words into syllables	Shallow	Early to middle preschool
<i>Rhyme awareness</i>	Recognizes when two words rhyme; produces pairs of words that rhyme	Shallow	Early to middle preschool
<i>Onset awareness</i>	Segments the beginning sound (onset) from the rest of a syllable; blends the beginning sound (onset) with the rest of a syllable	Shallow	Late preschool
<i>Phoneme identity</i>	Identifies sounds at the beginning and end of the word; identifies words that start with the same sound	Shallow	Late preschool, early kindergarten
<i>Phoneme blending</i>	Blends phonemes to make a word	Deep	Early kindergarten
<i>Phoneme segmentation</i>	Segments a word into its phonemes	Deep	Middle to late kindergarten
<i>Phoneme counting</i>	Identifies the number of phonemes in a word	Deep	Late kindergarten to end of first grade
<i>Phoneme manipulation</i>	Deletes, adds, and rearranges phonemes in a word	Deep	Elementary grades