



Early literacy skills (sound awareness)

Sound awareness is an understanding of how sounds come together to form words.
Sound awareness skills are essential for later reading and writing development.

Early literacy (sound awareness) skills include:

- Identifying sounds at the start and end of words (e.g., *tap* starts with a **t** sound),
- Breaking words into sounds (e.g., *bus* has three sounds, **b...u...s**), and
- The links between speech sounds and letters (i.e. the *sound* each *letter* makes).

Talk about sounds: Share books and talk about sounds



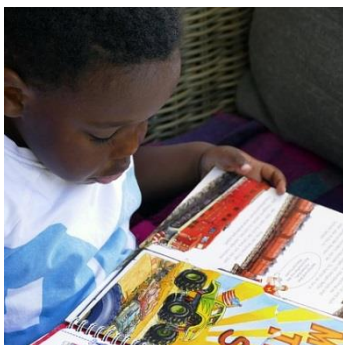
Play with sounds in words

Play 'I spy' using the pictures in books, or when you are outside.

I spy something *starting with a w sound*.

Make silly sentences using words that start with the same sound.

The *pelican* ate a *pear* and some *pancakes* at the *picnic*.



Talk about sounds in words

Talk about the sounds you hear at the start and end of words.

This word starts with the *same sound as your name*.

Dog and *day* both *start with a d sound*.

Bag and *peg* both have a *g sound at the end*.



Talk about sound-letter links

Look at letters in books, magazines, and on signs and labels.

Point to a letter as you talk about the sound it makes.

This letter is **s**. It makes a *ssss* sound.

Your name is *written* here. The *sounds* in your name are...