

# Kindergarten Language Arts



Kindergarten Round-Up  
Lakeview Public Schools



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# Phonemic Awareness

### What is Phonemic Awareness?

Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate individual sounds in words. Children must first understand that words are made up of separate speech sounds that can be blended together to make words before they can make sense of using the alphabet to read and write. Research has identified phonemic awareness and letter knowledge as the best two predictors of how well a child will learn to read during the first two years of school (National Reading Panel, 2000). Children who develop strong phonemic awareness skills, at an early age, are more likely to become fluent readers and better spellers, than children who do not.

### What should my Kindergartener be able to do?

*By the end of kindergarten, children should be able to:*

- Identify whether words rhyme. (hat/mat, sun/bug)
- Provide a word that rhymes with another. (“tell me a word that rhymes with sun”)
- Blend syllables into a word. (cup/cake “cupcake”, eye/ball “eyeball”, gold/fish “goldfish”)
- Blend “onset-rimes” into words. (c/ap “cap”, c/at “cat”, c/ar “car”)
- Clap or count syllables in a 1 to 3 syllable word. (but-ter-fly, la-dy-bug, rain-bow)
- Provide the first sound in a word. (“what is the beginning sound of the word fish”)
- Segment sounds in words. (“tell me the sounds in the word hat”; h/a/t)

### How can I help my child develop phonemic awareness skills?

*To help your child listen to the sound in words:*

- Read books and poems that focus on the rhythm of language and rhyme; Books such as “Hop on Pop” or “Sheep in a Jeep” help children pay attention to sounds in words.
- Give your child a noisemaker (such as a whistle); Tell your child to make noise if you say two words that rhyme. (cat/cup, sit/mit)
- Play word games such as “Guess My Word” ... “I’m thinking of a word that rhymes with bat; Can you guess my word?”
- Have a sound scavenger hunt... Give your child a bag and ask him/her to find as many things around the house that begin with a certain sound.
- Play “I spy” with beginning sounds of words: “I spy something that begins with t”.

*To help your child segment (separate) and blend sounds in words:*

- Have your child guess a word that you sound out slowly. (ssssuuuuunnnn).
- Give your child 3-5 items (blocks, beads, bingo chips, etc.); Say a word and have your child move an object for each sound in the word.
- Play Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes with sounds... Say a word and have your child touch his/her head for the first sound, shoulders for the second sound, knees for the third, and toes for the fourth (if there are that many) while saying each sound. (f/i/n/d, b/a/t)
- Jump for Sounds... Say a word and have your child jump for each sound in the word while saying the sound. (d/o/g, j/a/r)

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**Using Magnetic Letters**  
**with your**  
**Child's Name**



Spell your child's name with magnetic letters.

Practice learning the letters in his or her first name.

Once the first name is mastered, add the last name.

Use upper and lowercase letters when doing these activities.

- ***This activity teaches letter names by connecting to something meaningful to the child.***
  - Can you spell your name?  
T-o-m (ask your child to touch each letter as they say the letter name)
  - Mix up the letters in your child's name; Ask them to put the letters back in order.
  - Take one letter away from your child's name; What letter is missing?
  - Scramble the letters; Can they name them out of order?
- ***This activity teaches sequence and orientation.***
  - Which name is yours?
    - Tow
    - Mot
    - Tom
    - Two
- ***This activity teaches about spaces between letters.***
  - Make it look right...
    - To m
    - T om
    - I amTom.



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Using  
Magnetic Letters  
at Home



- **Letter Play** - Encourage children to play with magnetic letters on the refrigerator or on a table. Playing with letters allows children to learn more about how they look.
- **Making Names** - A child's name is the most important word! Have children make their names several times, mixing up the letters after each turn.
- **Letter Match** - Invite children to find letters that look the same; Place a "b" on the refrigerator and have your child find all the ones that look like it. (d, p, q)
- **Name Game** - Have children make names of friends or family. Have them make the name, mix the letters, and then make the name again.
- **Making Words** - Make a simple word like mom/sun/car and have your child make the same word by matching each letter below your work.
- **Alphabet Train** - Have your child put the lowercase magnetic letters in the order of the alphabet. Then they can point to them and sing the alphabet song. Have them repeat the process with uppercase letters.
- **Feature Sort** - Have children sort letters in a variety of ways: letters with long sticks (b) and short sticks (r), letters with circles (p) and no circles (C), letters with tunnels (m), letters with dots (j), letters with slanted sticks (x), and letters with straight sticks (H).
- **Color Sort** - Have children sort and name all the red, blue, green, and yellow letters.
- **Uppercase/Lowercase Match** - Have children match the uppercase letters with the same letter lowercase.
- **Writing Letters** - Have children select ten difference letters and write each letter on a piece of paper, using the magnetic letters as models.
- **Writing Words** - Have children make easy words (dog, fun, big, hat, like) and then write them down on a sheet of paper.
- **Rhyming Words** – Have your child make an easy word (cat); Then switch out the first letter and ask your child to sound out the "new" word (hat/rat/sat/mat/fat).
- **Making Food Words** - Make some simple words that identify food (milk, bun, egg, rice); Have children draw pictures of the words, then mix up the letters and make the words again by sounding out the letters. (use the picture to remember the word)
- **Making Color Words** – List a color word on a piece of paper; Show your child the color word you have written and give them an item made in that color (red ball, blue sponge); Cover your word and have your child write the color word with magnetic letters, sounding out the word; mix the letters and make the word again. (have them check your word to see if they have correctly spelled their word)

**TIP** Read as if you are having a lively conversation; use drama, voices, speed up or slow down, change tones...  
Most Important: HAVE FUN!



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## **READ WITH YOUR CHILD!** **EVERYDAY**



### **Your Baby and Toddler**

Here are a few things that you can do to help build your child's literacy skills:

- Read aloud to your baby a few minutes at a time, then a little longer as your older baby is willing to listen.
- Point to things in picture books and name them. As your children learn to talk, ask them to "point and say."
- Set aside at least one regularly scheduled time each day for reading. Make it a part of your toddler's routine. Also take toddlers to the library or bookstore for story hour.
- Recite nursery rhymes and sing songs. Rhymes help develop a young child's want for language.

Try introducing the following types of books to your child:

- Cloth, vinyl, and board books that are durable for babies
- Books with familiar objects to name
- Simple stories about a toddler's everyday experiences
- A collection of Mother Goose or other nursery rhymes

**TIP** Talk about the story **BEFORE** you begin reading...Have Fun Guessing!



### **Your Preschooler**

Here are a few things that you can do to help build your child's literacy skills:

- Encourage your children to join in while you read; let them fill in a rhyming word or repeating line: "I'll huff and I'll puff..."
- Ask open-ended questions: "What do you think will happen next?", "Why do you think he did that?"
- Move your finger under the words as you read aloud; this helps connect printed words to spoken words.
- Begin teaching the letters of the alphabet, starting with those in your child's name. Make letter-learning fun with markers, magnets, glue, and glitter.

Try introducing the following types of books to your child:

- Concept books, such as counting and A-B-C books
- "Pattern books" with rhymes and repetition
- Simple stories with predictable plots

**TIP** Teach your child about humor; Have Fun reading JOKE books! Doesn't everybody love a great KNOCK-KNOCK joke!



### **Your Beginning Reader (Grades K-2)**

Here are a few things that you can do to help build your child's literacy skills:

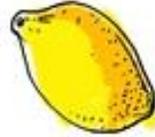
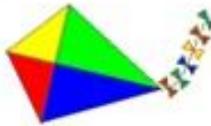
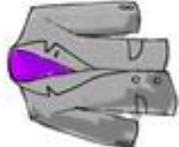
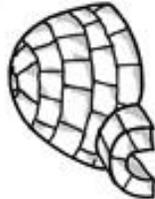
- Let your child gradually share some of the reading aloud; take turns reading. Remember to take over if your beginner seems tired or discouraged to ensure that reading is always fun, not just hard work.
- If your child can't sound out a word, suggest skipping it, reading the rest of the sentence, and deciding what word would make sense.
- Leave notes on the refrigerator or in a lunch bag for your child to discover and read.
- Take your new reader to the library to sign up for his or her own library card.

Try introducing the following types of books to your child:

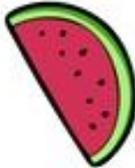
- Read-aloud books with plots to follow and challenging vocabulary
- Easy-to-read books your child can read alone
- Books in a variety of genres, including nonfiction and poetry



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 <p><b>Aa</b> Apple</p>	 <p><b>Cc</b> Cat</p>	 <p><b>Dd</b> Duck</p>	 <p><b>Pp</b> Pig</p>
 <p><b>Ee</b> Elephant</p>	 <p><b>Gg</b> Goat</p>	 <p><b>Hh</b> House</p>	 <p><b>Ll</b> Lemon</p>
 <p><b>Bb</b> Ball</p>	 <p><b>Ff</b> Fish</p>	 <p><b>Kk</b> Kite</p>	 <p><b>Oo</b> Octopus</p>
 <p><b>Jj</b> Jacket</p>	 <p><b>Nn</b> Nest</p>	 <p><b>Ii</b> Igloo</p>	 <p><b>Mm</b> Mailbox</p>

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 <b>Qq</b> Queen	 <b>Rr</b> Rainbow	 <b>Ss</b> Socks	 <b>Tt</b> Tree
 <b>Uu</b> Umbrella	 <b>Vv</b> Violin	 <b>Ww</b> Watermelon	 <b>Xx</b> Xylophone
 <b>Yy</b> Yarn	 <b>Zz</b> Zebra		