



# Phonological Awareness Skills by Age

Deficits in phonological awareness are an early marker for dyslexia.\*

*Ages at which 80-90% of typical students achieve particular skills.*

Age	Skill	Example
4	Rote imitation and enjoyment of rhyme and alliteration	rat, cat, bat "Peter Piper picked a pack of pickled peppers."
5	Recognizes a rhyme	Which two rhyme? sat, rug, bat
	Clapping / counting syllables	Dog (1 syllable); rabbit (2 syllables)
5.5	Blends onset and rime	/sh/ /ip/ (ship); /k/ /up/ (cup)
	Produces a rhyme	Tell me a word that rhymes with "rug." (bug)
	Isolates beginning sound	Say the first sound in the word "net." (/n/)
	Distinguishes and remembers separate sounds in a series	Repeat sequence of single phonemes using colored squares: /s/, /t/, /f/, /sh/, /s/
6	Compound word deletion	Say "sunfish." Say it again, but don't say "sun." (fish)
	Syllable deletion	Say "tulip." Say it again, but don't say "/tu/." (lip)
	Blends 2- and 3-phoneme words	/s/ /u/ /n/: (sun); /g/ /o/: (go)
	Segments 2- and 3-phoneme words (no blends)	Say the sounds in the word "shot" as you move a chip/square for each sound. (/sh/ /o/ /t/)
6.5	Segments words that have up to 3 or 4 phonemes (including blends)	Say the sounds in the word "black" as you move a chip/square for each sound. (/b/ /l/ /a/ /k/)
	Phoneme substitution to build new words (no blends)	Change the /j/ in cage to /n/. (cane)
7	Phoneme deletion (initial and final word positions)	Say "seed." Say it again without the /d/. (see)
8	Phoneme deletion (initial position including blends)	Say "sled." Say it again without the /s/. (led)
9	Phoneme deletion (medial and final blend positions)	Say "past." Say it again without the /s/. (pat)