

3 SOUND ACTIVITIES

Simple, playful ways to grow your child's sound awareness at home

Learning to read begins with hearing language. Before a child can read words on a page, they need to notice the sounds inside words. That skill is called **phonemic awareness**, and it plays an important role in building strong readers. These three activities give your child a playful way to listen, notice, and work with sounds. They are simple to do at home, take just a few minutes, and use things you likely already have around you.

ACTIVITY 1: RHYME TIME SCAVENGER HUNT

Builds: Rhyming awareness **Best for:** Pre-Readers and Beginning Readers

What you need

- Household objects
- A basket or bag

How to play

1. Say a word out loud, like **cat**.
2. Ask your child to find something that rhymes with it, like **hat**.
3. Put the object in the basket.
4. Keep going with new words.
5. When the basket is full, say the word pairs together out loud: **cat, hat** or **ball, doll**.

What this helps with

This activity helps your child hear the parts of words that sound the same. Rhyming is one of the earliest ways children begin noticing sound patterns in language, and that kind of noticing matters as they grow into reading.

Try this too

- Begin with easy one-syllable words.
- As your child gets stronger, try longer or sillier words.
- Let it be playful. The sillier it gets, the more engaged they usually are.

There is no need to make it feel like homework.
Keep it light, keep it playful, and let your child grow through practice, connection, and repetition.

READ. PLAY. ATELIER.

Activity 2: Sound Swap Game

Builds: Phoneme substitution **Best for:** Beginning Readers and growing readers who are ready for more sound play

What you need

- Just your voices

How to play

1. Say a simple word out loud, like **cat**.
2. Ask your child to change the first sound: "What happens if we change /c/ to /b/?"
3. Say the new word together: **bat**.
4. Keep going: **cat** → **bat** → **mat** → **sat**.
5. You can also change the ending sound: **cat** → **cap** → **can**.

What this helps with

This kind of sound play helps your child take words apart and put them back together. It strengthens the listening and sound awareness skills that support decoding later on.

Activity 3: Syllable Clap & Sort

Builds: Syllable awareness **Best for:** Pre-Readers and Beginning Readers

What you need

- Household objects with different syllables
- Three baskets, bowls, or floor spots labeled **1**, **2**, and **3**

How to play

1. Pick an object and say it out loud, like **banana**.
2. Clap the beats in the word together: **ba-na-na**.
3. Ask your child to decide where it goes: the 1-clap group, 2-clap group, or 3-clap group.
4. Repeat with other objects.
5. At the end, clap through each group together to check.

What this helps with

Syllable awareness helps children hear that longer words can be broken into smaller parts. That matters because it gives them a way into bigger words later on.

WANT MORE SUPPORT?

If you want more support figuring out what to work on first, what to practice at home, and what comes next, the Reading Plan inside *Read. Play. Atelier* can help.