

## Phonemic Awareness Games to Play in the Car

*A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in speech. We want our kids to be able to recognize, discriminate, and manipulate those sounds. Promote reading success by playing with words!*

- **Do these words rhyme?** *red/bed-yes, go/no-no, why/fly-yes, big/hot-no, shop/flop-yes, etc.*
- **Finish this rhyme.** red/bed- blue/\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. *glue*)  
Say two rhyming words, (for support) and another word. Kids fill in a word that rhymes with the word you said.
- **clap, clap-\_\_\_\_\_. slap, slap** (hands on legs) \_\_\_\_\_.  
Clap twice. Say a word. Slap your hands on your thighs twice. Kids fill in rhyming word. (Try to keep a steady beat!)
- **What rhymes with \_\_\_\_\_ and starts with \_\_\_\_\_?** (*ship-/ch/-*)  
*net-/p/, milk-/s/, goat-/b/, ball-/t/, horse-/f/, week-/sp/, kitten-/m/, tree-/fr/, bear-/st/, razor-/ll/, truck-/ll/, grass-/p/, etc.*
- **\_\_(action)\_\_ if these words rhyme.**  
(smile, wink, high five, hop, blow a kiss, touch your toes, stand on one foot, spin around, give a hug, wiggle, snort, etc.)
- **Do these words begin with the same sound?**  
(*sneak/cheek-no, slim/snap-yes, neck/know-yes, lizard/lips-yes, car/kazoo-yes, nickel/penny-no, shrug/sugar-yes, etc.*)
- **Do these words end with the same sound?**  
(*hard/mad-yes, wet/lift-yes, hip/flap-yes, rug/soft-no, swim/hum-yes, love/have-yes, light/brown-no*)
- **What is your mouth doing when you make this sound /\_\_\_/?**  
(*/h/- huffy breath with lips open, /s/-teeth together and air squeezing between teeth and tongue, /m/ lips together, etc.*)
- **I'll say it slowly, & you say it quickly.** (/b/-/e/-/d/)- \_\_\_\_\_ (bed)  
Say a word, slowly stretching-it-out, sound by sound. The kids "snap" or slide the sounds back together, naming the word.
- **I'll say it quickly, & you say it slowly.** (neck)- \_\_\_\_\_ (n-e-ck)  
Say a word. Kids stretch out the sounds, one by one, into individual parts.
- **How many sounds (phonemes) are in the word \_\_\_\_\_?** (chest-4)  
Say a word. The kids stretch the word into individual parts, counting the number of sounds they hear.

Remember to model what you want your kids to do. They don't want to be quizzed and fail. You will assist them so that, the whole time you're practicing, your kids feel great about it! No one wants to practice if they cannot be successful. Ensure success and FUN by modeling how each task is done in a positive, affirming way.