Phonological Awareness Levels
*Age by which 80-90% of students have mastered this skill

Awareness of Words (*4 years)

- Single syllable words - How many words do you hear in “He went to school.” = 4
- Multi-syllable words – How many words do you hear in “The baby tried walking.” = 4
- Discrimination of words – Are these words the same or different? Cat-cow

Rhyme (*5 – 5 ½ years)

- Do these words rhyme? Cat – Rat, Dog-Mark, Plane – Out, Sing – Ring
- Give me a word that rhymes with _____?
- Which word does not rhyme – wish, girl, fish, dish
- Onset and rime – Blend these sounds to make a word – “/ch/ /art/” = chart

Syllables (*5 -6 years)

- This word has been broken apart by its syllables. I want you to put it back together ta / ble = “table”
- Say each syllable in the word _____
- Count how many syllables do you hear in the word _____

Phonemes

- Identification (*5 ½ -6 ½ years)
  - What is the first sound you hear in _____
  - Which one does not begin with the same sound?
  - Tell me two words that begin with _____
  - What is the last sound you hear in _____
  - Which one does not end in the same sound?
  - What sound do you hear in the middle of _____
  - Which one does not have the same middle sound?
- Segmentation (*6 years)
  - Tell me the sounds you hear in the word _____? (ex. “cat” = /c/ /a/ /t/)
  - Count how many sounds do you hear in the word _____?
- Blending (*6 years)
  - This word has been broken apart by each of its sounds, I want you to put it back together /b/ /l/ /a/ /ck/ = “black”

Manipulation

- Syllable Deletion (*6 years)
  - (compound word deletion) Say “rainbow”, but don’t say “rain” = “bow”
  - (multi-syllable words) Say “baker”, but don’t say “ker” = “ba”
- Phoneme Substitution (*7 years)
  - Initial consonant – Say “kick”, but change the /k/ to /l/
  - Final consonant – Say “fork”, but change the /k/ to /d/
  - Medial sound – Say “bag”, but change /a/ to /i/
- Phoneme Deletion (*8 years)
  - Initial consonant - Say “cup”, but don’t say /k/ = up
  - Initial consonant BLENDS (real word) Say “stop”, but don’t say /s/ = “top”
  - Final consonant (real word) Say “plate”, but don’t say /t/ = “play”
  - Final consonant BLENDS (real word) Say “fast”, but don’t say /s/ = “fat”

Angie Neal, M.S. CCC-SLP
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