The following pages contain the Get Ready to Read! skill-building activity cards. These cards are engaging, child-friendly early literacy activities for preschoolers. You can use the child’s score on the screening tool to help you decide whether to start with “beginning” activities, “making progress” activities, or “ready to read” activities, or you can just use your knowledge of the child’s skills.

The activities are organized by skill domain and level. Each activity card also states which specific skill the activity addresses. For more information about the skill domains, please see the information about the Get Ready to Read! screening tool at the beginning of this section. Here is what you will find:

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PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Beginning

**Get Ready to Read!**

**Making a Menu**

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**Print Knowledge**

**BEGINNING: Functions of Print**

**What You Need:**
- paper
- glue stick
- pictures of food cut out from magazines
- crayons or markers
- names of different foods clearly written on index cards

**What You Do:**
1. Discuss with the children the purpose and use of a menu.
2. Choose a meal for the children to make menus.
3. Lay out the pictures of food.
4. Have the child or children pick out a few pictures. Discuss good choices and favorites.
5. Write "MENU" at the top of each page. Help children who are ready write the word on their own.
6. Have the children glue the pictures of the selected foods down the left side of the paper.
7. Help children find the names of the selected foods. They can either glue the name next to the food or copy it directly onto the paper.
8. Ask each child to read the menu back to you or share it with a friend.

**Why?**
Children become familiar with one of the many functions of print.


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**Get Ready to Read!**

**My Favorite Book**

---

**Print Knowledge**

**BEGINNING: Functions of Print**

**What You Need:**
- construction paper
- pictures cut from magazines and newspapers
- markers
- glue
- stapler

**What You Do:**
1. Fold two sheets of construction paper and staple them along the crease to make a book.
2. Have the child pick a title for the book, such as "My Favorite Toys," "My Favorite Animals" or "My Favorite Foods." Write the title and the child's name on the front of the book.
3. Have the child pick pictures that have to do with the chosen title and glue them into the book.
4. Encourage the children to share their books with each other.

**Why?**
Children learn that pictures and print carry messages and have many uses. Children also learn how books work.

PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Beginning

Get Ready to Read! My Name Has Letters

Print Knowledge
BEGINNING: Matching Letters

What You Need:
• plastic 3-D letters
• paper
• markers
• shallow basket

What You Do:
1. Using the plastic letters, spell the child’s name on the paper.
2. Trace the letters with the marker so that the child’s name is written on the paper. Color in the
   letters all the same color.
3. Place the plastic letters that are in the child’s name in the shallow basket.
4. Have the child pick letters from the basket and match them, one by one, to the corresponding
   letters on the paper. Continue until the child’s name is spelled.

Why?
The child learns that his or her name is made up of letters and what those letters look like.


Get Ready to Read! The Reading Puppet

Print Knowledge
BEGINNING: Book Rules

What You Need:
• puppet
• big book on stand

What You Do:
1. Place the big book upside down on the stand.
2. Bring out the puppet and introduce it to the children. Explain to the children that the puppet is
   going to read the book, but will need some help. Encourage the children to interact with the
   puppet.
3. Begin the activity by having the puppet look for the title, author and illustrator of the book. Since
   the book is upside down, the puppet should ask for help from the children. For example, “I want to
   read this book, but first I need to tell you the title. I can’t find it! The book is upside down. There’s
   the title. What does ‘title’ mean?”
4. Continue the activity with the puppet asking for the children’s help with how to read the book.
   For example:
   “What should I do first if I want to read the book?”
   “Where should I start reading?”
   “Help me turn the page.”
   “Can you help me find the picture of ________?”

Why?
Children become aware of book rules.

PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Making Progress

Get Ready to Read!

Print Knowledge

MAKING PROGRESS: Differentiating Print from Pictures

What You Need:
- pictures of familiar items cut from magazines and advertisements
  (Some pictures should include print and some should be simply a picture.)
- scissors
- glue
- index cards

What You Do:
1. In advance, glue each picture onto an index card.
2. Give each child two cards, one that has a word or words on it and one that is just a picture.
3. Say, “Letters can go together to make words. Look for letters and words on your cards. Hold up your card that has a word on it.”
4. Choose a child to bring his or her card to you and place it where it can be seen by all the children. Challenge the children to tell you what word they see in the picture.
5. Repeat with a few cards. Reinforce the purpose of the print in each picture. For example, say, “This cereal box has a word on it that tells us the cereal’s name.”

Why?
Children learn to differentiate print from pictures and learn one of the purposes of print.

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Find a Word

Fishing for Letters

Print Knowledge

MAKING PROGRESS: Naming Letters

What You Need:
- construction paper
- magnet
- scissors
- large paper clips
- string
- stick or wooden dowel
- marker

What You Do:
1. Cut out 26 fish shapes from the construction paper.
2. Have children decorate one side of each fish.
3. On the other side of each fish, write a letter of the alphabet.
4. Slide a paper clip onto each fish’s tail.
5. To make the “fishing rod,” tie the string to the end of the dowel or stick. Tie the magnet to the other end of the string.
6. Scatter the fish on the floor with the letter side down.
7. Have the children try to “catch” a fish with the fishing rod and say the name of the letter on that fish.
8. For a more advanced version of the game, children can also say the letter’s sound or a word that starts with that sound.

Why?
Children become aware of letter shapes, names and sounds.

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PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Making Progress

**Get Ready to Read!**

**Name Memory**

**Print Knowledge**

**MAKING PROGRESS:** Naming Letters

**What You Need:**
- index cards, all the same color
- markers

**What You Do:**
1. Make the game cards: Using only the letters in your child’s name, write each letter on two cards so that you have several pairs of cards.
2. Shuffle the cards and spread them out face down.
3. Ask your child to turn over any two cards. If the cards match, help your child name the letter. Your child then keeps the cards. If the cards do not match, your child turns the cards back over and tries again.
4. Play continues until all matches have been made.
5. Help your child put the letters in order to spell his or her name.

**Why?**
Your child will become familiar with the names and shapes of the letters in his or her name.


---

**Get Ready to Read!**

**Word Puzzles**

**Print Knowledge**

**MAKING PROGRESS:** Environmental Print

**What You Need:**
- several empty cartons of foods familiar to children (e.g., cereals, milk, pasta)
- plastic sandwich bags

**What You Do:**
1. Cut the carton front into 4-5 puzzle-shaped pieces.
2. Place each puzzle into a bag. If possible, have an intact, identical carton front for the children to see as a model.
3. Have children put the puzzle together. Ask them to point out the food words on the puzzle and say them out loud.

**Why?**
Children become aware of environmental print and learn to differentiate print from pictures.

PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Ready to Read

Letter Memory

Get Ready to Read!

Print Knowledge

READY TO READ: Naming Letters

What You Need:
• same-colored index cards
• markers

What You Do:
1. Make the game cards: Choose 6 letters that the children have been learning or need to practice. Write each letter on two cards so that you have 6 pairs of cards.
2. Shuffle the cards and place them face down.
3. Ask a child to turn over two cards. If the cards match, the child names the letter and keeps the cards. If the cards do not match, the child turns the cards back over and the next child takes a turn.
4. Play continues until all matches have been made.

Why?
Children become familiar with the names and shapes of the letters of the alphabet.

My Word Box

Print Knowledge

READY TO READ: Reading Simple Words

What You Need:
• small box for each child
• index cards
• marker

What You Do:
1. Label each box with a child's name.
2. Have each child decorate his or her box.
3. Ask children to tell you 3 or 4 of their favorite words or words that are very important to them.
4. Write these words on index cards, and have the children keep their special words in their own box. Repeat steps 3 and 4 every few days.
5. Children can include pictures on the cards that illustrate some of their words.
6. Every few days, ask children to read their cards to you and tell about the words.

Why?
Children begin to recognize words that are important to them.
## PRINT KNOWLEDGE: Ready to Read

### Get Ready to Read!

#### Print Knowledge

**READY TO READ: Naming Letters**

**What You Need:**
- brown paper bag or cloth sack
- plastic letters

**What You Do:**
1. Place 10 letters in the bag.
2. Model the activity by closing your eyes and picking a letter. As you feel the letter, describe what letter you think you’ve picked. Open your eyes and confirm your answer with the children.
3. Have a child close his or her eyes and pick out a letter.
4. Ask the child, "What letter do you think it is?" If the child is having trouble identifying the letter, give clues.

**Variations:**
- Hide the letters in a bin of sand or rice.
- Have the child match the letter that he or she finds to words you have printed on a piece of paper.

**Why?**
Children become aware of letter shapes and letter names.

---

#### Word Jump

**READY TO READ: Reading Simple Words**

**What You Need:**
- large index cards (or paper)
- marker
- list of simple words (see list below)

**What You Do:**
1. Choose eight words that the children are learning.
2. Write each word in large print in lowercase letters on an index card.
3. Spread the words out on the floor.
4. Say a word, and ask a child to jump to that word and read it.
5. Have other children take turns jumping to words that you say.

**Why?**
Children will begin to recognize simple words.

**Sample simple words:**
And, the, in, is, on, you, cat, it, my, we, me, with

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EMERGENT WRITING: Beginning

Get Ready to Read! Draw to the Music

**Emergent Writing**

**BEGINNING:** Scribbling/Drawing

**What You Need:**
- music with different styles and tempos
- paper
- crayons

**What You Do:**
1. Give each child paper and crayons. You can use construction paper for individual children, or mural paper on the wall or floor for a whole group.
2. Tell the children to draw when the music is on and stop drawing when the music is off.
3. Turn on the music.
4. Let the children draw for a few minutes. Turn the music off and remind the children to stop drawing.
5. Repeat several times, changing the music after a few minutes to a different style or tempo.

**Why?**
Children learn to connect their motor actions with the marks they make on the paper. They also gain practice controlling a crayon.

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Get Ready to Read! Draw Your Day

**Emergent Writing**

**BEGINNING:** Drawing

**What You Need:**
- a variety of drawing materials (crayons, markers, pencils)
- paper

**What You Do:**
1. As the children watch you, write at the top of the paper, “Today in school, I will” or “Today at home, we will.”
2. Ask the children to finish the sentence with a drawing of something that will happen that day in school or at home.

**Why?**
Children learn that they can draw a picture to help tell a story or describe an event.

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EMERGENT WRITING: Beginning

Get Ready to Read! I Can Write Letters

**Emergent Writing**

BEGINNING: Printing Letters

What You Need:
- sandpaper
- baking sheet with sand spread out on it
- large squares of carpet

What You Do:
1. Have the children stand up.
2. With your back to them, “write” the letter that you are teaching them in the air in front of you with your index finger. This should be done in a large and exaggerated way. Make sure that the children can see what you are doing. Say the name of the letter as you “write” it in the air. Do this several times along with the children.
3. Children should then be encouraged to experiment with “writing” the letter with their index fingers on sandpaper, in sand on a baking sheet and on carpet. Make sure to observe the children’s attempts and help them as necessary.

Why?
Children develop sensitivity to the muscle movements involved in writing letter shapes, which will help them to learn how letters are formed.

Get Ready to Read! Tell About Your Picture

**Emergent Writing**

BEGINNING: Drawing

What You Need:
- drawing paper
- crayons
- black marker

What You Do:
1. Give the children drawing paper and crayons. Tell them to draw a picture of an activity that they have done recently. For example, they can draw about something they did in school or at home.
2. Ask each child, one at a time, to describe to you what they have drawn. Write, in clear print with the black marker, what each child says on his or her picture, and then read it back to the child.

Why?
Children learn that pictures and words can be used to describe experiences in their lives.
EMERGENT WRITING: Beginning

Get Ready to Read!

Walk on a Letter

**Emergent Writing**

**BEGINNING:** Printing Letters

**What You Need:**
- masking tape

**What You Do:**
1. Make a large letter on the floor with the masking tape.
2. Tell the children the name of the letter and a word that begins with that letter.
3. Have the children walk or jump on the masking tape in the shape of the letter. They can say the name of the letter as they do it.
4. Tell the children a few other words that start with the letter. Ask them if they can think of more.

**Why?**
Children become familiar with the names and shapes of the letters of the alphabet.

EMERGENT WRITING: Making Progress

**Get Ready to Read!**

**Build Your Name**

**Emergent Writing**

**MAKING PROGRESS: Printing Name**

**What You Need:**
- uppercase and lowercase plastic letters
- bag or cloth sack
- paper
- pencil or crayons

**What You Do:**
1. Write a child's name at the top of the paper in large letters, using an uppercase letter for the first letter in the child's name, followed by lowercase letters.
2. Place the plastic letters that are in the child's name into the bag. Also include one or two letters that are not part of the child's name.
3. Tell the child to pick a letter out of the bag.
4. Ask the child, “What is the name of the letter that you picked? Look at your name. Is this letter in your name?”
5. Ask the child to place the plastic letter under the written letter, and continue until the child has picked all of the letters in his or her name.
6. When the child's name is complete, ask the child to print it out on the paper.

**Why?**
Children become familiar with the letters in their name.

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**Clay Letters**

**Emergent Writing**

**MAKING PROGRESS: Letters**

**What You Need:**
- modeling clay or play-dough
- paper and pencil

**What You Do:**
1. Print a few letters of the alphabet on the paper, making them at least 6 inches tall.
2. Roll lumps of clay into long, thin pieces.
3. Help the children form the strips of clay into letters. At first, children can make the letter directly on the written model. They can progress to forming the clay below the written letter, using it as a guide.

**Why?**
Children become familiar with the shape of the letters and practice forming them independently.

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EMERGENT WRITING: Making Progress

Get Ready to Read!

**Emergent Writing**

**Making Progress:** Copying

**What You Need:**
- paper
- crayons
- 12 index cards, each with a different figure on one side (simple shape, squiggly line, letter)

**What You Do:**
1. With several children seated in a small group, give each child a piece of paper and a crayon. Children who can should write their names on their paper.
2. Place the index cards face down in a pile.
3. Have the children take turns picking a card from the pile. The child who picks the card shows it to the others and everyone draws that figure on their paper.
4. After all of the cards have been picked, children can color and decorate their pictures.

**Why?**
Children practice the fine motor skills that will help them to form letters on their own.

Get Ready to Read!

**Sequence Story**

**Emergent Writing**

**Making Progress:** Drawing

**What You Need:**
- crayons
- stapler
- black marker
- 3 pieces of drawing paper for each child

**What You Do:**
1. Tell the children about something you’ve done recently, like shopping or making dinner. On large paper, draw three simple pictures showing the beginning, middle and end of the experience. Use those pictures to tell the story again.
2. Help the children think of a recent experience. Talk with them about the beginning, the middle and the end.
3. Have each child draw three pictures, describing the beginning, middle and end of the experience. Number them in the correct order.
4. Ask the children, either individually or in small groups, to tell you about their pictures in sequence. Write the description for each picture on that picture.
5. Help the children put the pictures in order. Staple the pages together to make a “book” that the children can use to retell the experience.

**Why?**
Children learn to use words and pictures to communicate an experience. They also learn about the importance of sequence in a story.
EMERGENT WRITING: Making Progress

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**Emergent Writing**

**Making Progress: Printing Name**

**What You Need:**
- marker
- chalk
- construction paper or sandpaper, at least 8”x11” in size

**What You Do:**
1. With the marker, write the child’s name in large letters on the paper. Use an uppercase letter for the first letter of the name, and lowercase for the rest of the letters.
2. First, have the child use a finger to trace each letter of his or her name on the paper. Help the child say the name of each letter out loud as it is traced.
3. Give chalk to the child, and have the child trace the letters with the chalk, saying the name of each letter out loud as it is traced. If necessary, begin by holding and guiding the child’s hand as he or she holds the chalk.
4. Encourage the child to trace the letters in order, but be accepting of all attempts.

**Why?**
The child practices writing and saying the names of the letters in his or her name.
EMERGENT WRITING: Ready to Read

Get Ready to Read!  Guess What’s Inside

**Emergent Writing**
READY TO READ: Printing Name/Invented Spelling

**What You Need:**
- large box
- markers
- lightly colored plain wrapping paper
- item familiar to the children that will fit inside the box and can be named with one word

**What You Do:**
1. Place the item in the box.
2. Wrap the box with the wrapping paper.
3. Tell the children that there is something in the box, and that they should write on the box what they think is inside. Place the wrapped box on a table with some markers next to it.
4. Ask each child to write his or her name on the wrapping paper and try to write a guess as to what is inside. All attempts at writing a word should be encouraged.
5. To help, ask the children to say the word out loud that they want to write. Help them listen for the sounds in that word and write the letters that make those sounds.
6. Later, open the box and show what is inside. The box can be reused another day with new paper on it.

**Why?**
Children learn that writing has a purpose, and engage in beginning attempts at writing on their own.

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Get Ready to Read!  Send a Message

**Emergent Writing**
READY TO READ: Message Composition

**What You Need:**
- shoebox decorated as a mailbox with slot cut in the top
- paper and pencils

**What You Do:**
1. Model writing a short message to the children in order to introduce the activity. The message can include both text and pictures that represent text.
2. Tell the children that they can each write messages to you and put them in the mailbox. The children can use scribbles, letters, and pictures for their message.
3. Write messages back to each child and leave them in their cubby holes or their own “mailboxes.”

**Why?**
Children practice using written language and drawings to communicate a message.

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LINGUISTIC AWARENESS: Beginning

Get Ready to Read! Be an Expert Listener

Linguistic Awareness
BEGINNING: Active Listening

What You Need:
• cassette tape with common sounds recorded on it
• cassette tape player

What You Do:
1. Introduce the activity by talking to the children about the different sounds that they hear in the world around them. Have them think of a few sounds that they recall hearing.
2. Encourage the children to close their eyes and listen carefully to the sounds that they hear around them. Invite them to name the sounds that they hear.
3. Try this activity with sounds recorded on a cassette tape or on a “listening walk” outside.

Why?
Children learn to listen carefully for sounds. This helps them to be more active listeners to the sounds in language.

Get Ready to Read! Find the Rhymes

Linguistic Awareness
BEGINNING: Rhyming Words

What You Need:
• pictures of rhyming word pairs

What You Do:
1. Begin with any two pairs of pictures displaying rhyming words.
2. Spread the pictures out on the table or floor.
3. Explain to the children that words that rhyme sound the same at the end.
   Give a few examples, such as fat/rat or sing/ring.
4. Let the children choose one of the pictures. Find the picture that rhymes with the chosen picture and ask the children to determine if the words rhyme. Say the words together to emphasize the rhyming parts of the words. Do the same with the other rhyming pair.
5. Spread out more pictures and have the children find the rhyming pairs.

Why?
Children begin to recognize that some words rhyme because they share common sounds.
LINGUISTIC AWARENESS: Beginning

Get Ready to Read! How Many Words?

**Linguistic Awareness**
**BEGINNING: Segmenting Sentences**

**What You Need:**
- several plastic counters or other small game pieces

**What You Do:**
1. Give each child a pile of counters. Tell the children that sentences are made up of words, and that you are going to help them count the words in some sentences.
2. Say a simple sentence.
3. Help the children put down a counter for each word in the sentence.
4. Say the sentence again, having the children touch a counter for each word that they hear.
5. Continue with a few more sentences, using longer sentences when the children are ready.

**Why?**
Children learn that sentences are made up of words. They also practice listening for smaller segments of language.


Get Ready to Read! Match That Sound

**Linguistic Awareness**
**BEGINNING: Active Listening**

**What You Need:**
- 8-10 empty black film canisters with tops
- noisemakers: e.g., salt, beads, water, rice, metal keys, chalk, pebbles

**What You Do:**
1. Fill two canisters with the same item, e.g., a key. Do this for a total of eight canisters (four pairs).
2. Model the activity for the children: Shake one canister and describe what it sounds like. Shake another canister and describe it.
3. Repeat until you find two canisters that make the same sound. Describe the sound to the children.
4. Invite the children to try the activity. Encourage them to describe what they hear as they shake the canisters.

**Why?**
Children learn to listen carefully for sounds. This helps them to be more active listeners to the sounds in language.

LINGUISTIC AWARENESS: Making Progress

**Get Ready to Read!**

**Linguistic Awareness**

**MAKING PROGRESS: Segmenting Sentences**

**What You Need:**
- the first line of a nursery rhyme, poem or song that the children know very well
- a ball or beanbag

**What You Do:**
1. Have the children stand in a line from left to right.
2. From left to right, have each child say one word of the line of the rhyme or poem. They pass the ball or beanbag from child to child as each speaks.

**Variation:**
- For a challenge, write the line from the rhyme or poem on a sentence strip. Cut the strip into words and give each child the word that he or she will say to hold during the activity for the other children to see.

**Why?**
Children become aware that sentences can be divided into words.

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**Find the Compound Words**

**Linguistic Awareness**

**MAKING PROGRESS: Segmenting Compound Words**

**What You Need:**
- list of compound words
- pictures of items that illustrate compound words and their parts (for example, a picture of a cup and a picture of a cake for “cupcake”)

**What You Do:**
1. Tell the children that some words are made up of two shorter words put together and that you are going to use some of those words to play a word game.
2. Say a compound word and ask them to repeat it. For instance, say, “Say cupcake,” and let them repeat the word.
3. Help the children to select the pictures that show the parts of the word, such as “cup” and “cake.”
4. Continue with several other words on the list below.

**Why?**
Children learn to listen for the smaller segments of language that are contained in words.

**Word List:**
Cowboy, baseball, jellyfish, grasshopper, cupcake, doorbell, raincoat, bedroom, football, starfish, haircut, sailboat

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**Linguistic Awareness: Making Progress**

### Get Ready to Read!

#### Jump for a Rhyme

**Linguistic Awareness**

**Making Progress:** Rhyming

**What You Need:**
- rhyming dictionary such as The Scholastic Rhyming Dictionary (Scholastic, Inc., 1994) or online at www.rhymezzone.com
- list of pairs of rhyming words
- list of pairs of non-rhyming words

**What You Do:**
1. Model the activity for the children. Say a pair of words that rhyme. For example, say, “Cat-bat. The end of those words sounds the same—the words rhyme. I’m going to jump for a rhyme!”
2. Say a pair of words that do not rhyme. Tell the children, “Those words don’t rhyme, so I’ll just sit down.”
3. Play the game with the children, beginning with several pairs that rhyme, and then add in some pairs that don’t rhyme.

**Variation:**
- To adjust level of activity, begin with one-syllable words and progress to two- and three-syllable words.

**Why?**
Children become aware of rhymes and learn to identify them.

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#### Mystery Sound

**Linguistic Awareness**

**Making Progress:** Segmenting Words

**What You Need:**
- index cards
- glue or tape
- yarn
- hole punch
- pictures of items familiar to the children; a few items should begin with the same sound

**What You Do:**
1. Make picture necklaces: Glue a picture on each index card. Punch holes in the cards and put the yarn through the holes to make necklaces. Give one to each child.
2. Choose a beginning sound, but don’t tell the children what it is. Choose the children wearing pictures that begin with only that sound to stand in front of the group.
3. Tell the children that their jobs are to figure out what the mystery beginning sound is.
4. Point to each picture that a standing child is wearing and guide the group in naming the pictures, emphasizing the first sounds. Have them figure out the “mystery” first sound.

**Why?**
Children become aware that words are made up of sounds and learn to isolate the first sound in a word.

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LINGUISTIC AWARENESS: Making Progress

Get Ready to Read! Rhyme-Out

**Linguistic Awareness**

**MAKING PROGRESS: Rhyming Words**

**What You Need:**
- rhyming words

**What You Do:**
1. Working with one child or in a small group, start with a simple word with a lot of rhyming possibilities (hat, tall, sing, bell).
2. Take turns saying a word that rhymes with the first word until you run out of rhymes.
3. For more advanced students, make a list of the rhyming words on chart paper as they are said.

**Why?**
Children learn to listen for and generate rhymes.

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Get Ready to Read! Ready to Read

**Linguistic Awareness**

**READY TO READ: Segmenting Words**

**What You Need:**
- 3 bins
- paper bag
- several objects that begin with each of three different letter sounds

**What You Do:**
1. Label the outside of each bin with one of the three chosen letter sounds.
2. Show the bins to the children. Review the names and sounds of the three letters.
3. Place all of the objects in a bag.
4. Have the children take turns picking one object out of the bag. Help the children name what they have chosen and say the first sound of each object's name.
5. Tell the children to put the object in the bin that is labeled with the first sound of the object's name.
6. Repeat until all of the objects have been sorted into the appropriate bins.
7. Take a few minutes at the end of this activity to go through each bin with the children, naming each object while emphasizing its first sound.

**Why?**
Children learn to listen for and isolate the first sound of a word. Children also learn that a letter sound can appear in many different words.

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LINGUISTIC AWARENESS: Ready to Read

Get Ready to Read! Stretched-out Story

**Linguistic Awareness**

**READY TO READ:** Segmenting Words

**What You Need:**
- a picture book, poem or nursery rhyme

**What You Do:**
1. Say to the children, “I am going to tell you a story, but some words will sound a little different. I’m going to stretch out some words so that you can hear all of the sounds in the word. Your job is to put back together each word that I stretch. Let’s try a word for practice. Ssss-k-o-o-o-lll. What word am I stretching?”
2. Read or tell the story, rhyme or poem to the children. When you get to an important place, character or object in the story, say that word stretched out sound by sound. For example, “One day, Karen went to the ss-t-o-re. She had to buy some mmm-i-l-l for her sister.”
3. As you tell the story, pause for the children to help say the word that you have stretched out.

**Why?**
Children become aware of the individual sounds in speech and learn that words are made up of sounds.

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Get Ready to Read! What Word is Left?

**Linguistic Awareness**

**READY TO READ:** Segmenting Compound Words

**What You Need:**
- list of compound words (see below)

**What You Do:**
1. Tell the children that some words are made up of two words put together, and you can take away part of a word and have a new word.
2. Say a word and ask them to say the word back to you. For instance, say, “Say cowboy,” and let them repeat the word.
3. Tell the children, “Now say it again, but don’t say ‘boy’.” Model the correct response: “Cow-Oboy, without ‘boy’. Cowboy without ‘boy’ is ‘cow’.”
4. Continue with several other words on the list below. Ask the children to try to think of other compound words.

**Why?**
Children learn that smaller segments of language are contained in words.

**Word List:**
Cowboy, baseball, jellyfish, grasshopper, cupcake, doorbell, raincoat, bedroom, football, starfish, haircut, sailboat

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