

5 Focus Areas for Phonemic Awareness



Focus Area	Try This
Focus on Phonemes	If your lesson focuses on rhyming or syllables, shift it to the phoneme level. Use simple, single-syllable words and have students work with individual sounds instead.
Use Articulatory Gestures	Show students how sounds are made using their mouth (teeth, lips, air, or voice). Let them use mirrors or feel their voice box to notice the difference between sounds.
Connect Phonemes to Print	After students say the sounds, immediately connect them to letters. Write the word, build it, or have students map the sounds to print.
Be Thoughtful About Oral-Only Practice	Instead of keeping phonemic awareness separate, combine it with reading and writing. For example, segment a word out loud, then write it and read it together.
Focus on Blending and Segmenting	Keep these two skills at the center of your instruction. Blend sounds to read words and segment sounds to spell them throughout your lesson.