

Phonological Awareness encompasses all the skills that make-up understanding the sounds we use in language. The subskills included in Phonological Awareness begin in early oral language activities, prior to any connection of sounds to print. The foundations of these skills begin with the most basic, rhyming and alliteration, and continue through the gradual increasingly complex skills that make up Phonemic Awareness.

Phonemic Awareness is the skill that allows us to hear and manipulate the smallest sound in each word and to combine and manipulate those individual sounds to make words. This includes all 44 phonemes, or sounds that are made from the 26 letters in the English Alphabet.

Within the category of Phonemic Awareness, there are levels of complexity that must be attained as students build toward the next level, Phonics, which will connect the phoneme to a grapheme, or sounds to print.