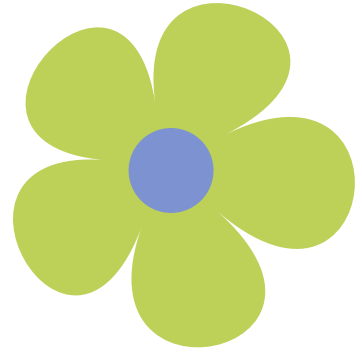
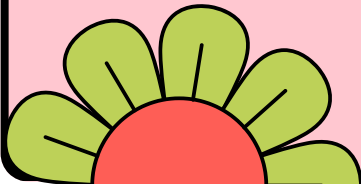


PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Dear Primary Parents,
Below please find some of my favorite activities,
tips, and tricks to build language and phonological
awareness skills at home. Click on the underlined
hyperlinks throughout the newsletter!



Ruby Klein
CCC-SLP, A/OGA

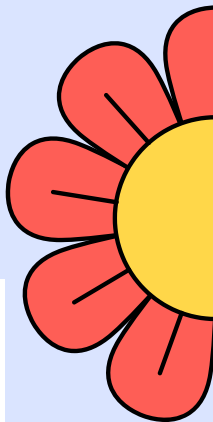


MS. KLEIN'S FAVORITE THINGS LANGUAGE

Looking to boost your child's expressive and receptive language skills? Try these things at home!

STORYTELLING

Work on your child's ability to sequence and narrate a story using games like Rory's Story Cubes and Tell Tale. Encourage your child to think about characters, setting, and a basic problem-solution.



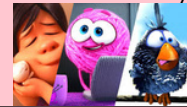
MULTI-STEP DIRECTIONS

Following a recipe requires your student to follow multi-step directions, and sequence steps. Baking together is a great time to discuss temporal concepts like before, after, during, while, first, second, third, etc...



INFERENCE

Great for prompting discussion, developing inferencing, reasoning, and problem solving skills. Find these on YouTube and Disney+.



Remember! Language is embedded in everything we do. Use every opportunity as a language building experience. Perhaps have your child order their own meal the next time you're at a restaurant and see how they do!

RAPID NAMING

Spot It! is a family favorite! Did you know this game is great for building focus, verbal naming, and visual perception skills? If your family loves Spot It!, give Blink! a try. A similar and slightly more challenging game, Blink, requires the players to not just match like objects, but find similarities based on color, shape, or quantity.



SYNONYMS & ANTONYMS

Learning new synonyms and antonyms not only helps build your child's vocabulary, but also will improve their written work! Sit down with your child and try out this free Synonym/Antonym Toss Game (basic level recommended.) Also, using blocks you already have at home and a dry erase marker, write synonyms on the blocks and have your child connect the similar words together!



Pro Tip: Start with antonyms! Opposites are easier to understand for our youngest learners.

CATEGORIES & DESCRIBING

The possibilities are endless with games like Headbanz and Guess in 10 Junior. Before having your child ask questions about what is on their headband, focus their thinking around what category the item belongs to, describing the item by it's most salient features, and then finally generating questions. These games are GREAT for working on deductive reasoning, superlative concepts, and adjectives.



Pro Tip: The Guess in 10 **Junior** version comes with very helpful guiding clue cards to focus your child's thinking.

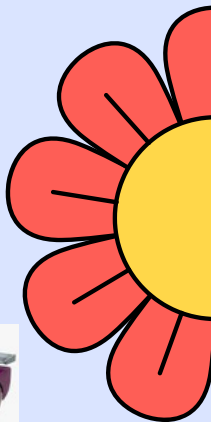
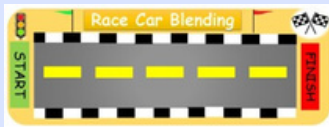


MS. KLEIN'S FAVORITE THINGS PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Looking to boost your child's phonological awareness skills? Try these things at home!

BLENDING

A crucial decoding skill, have your child practice blending 2 and 3 sounds together to form a word. Once they've mastered blending words with 3 sounds, move onto words containing 4 and 5 sounds! While all phonological awareness skills can be practiced just through listening, make this skill multi-sensory through race-car blending. Use this [free template](#), this [word list](#), and a toy car you already have at home as your child blends the word together!



SYLLABLES

Before working on segmenting the individual sounds in words, practice counting the syllables in a word. There are tons of kinesthetic ways to count syllables including clapping, stomping, popping, humming, and chinning (i.e., feeling your how many times your chin drops).



Pro Tip: If your child can count syllables accurately but is having a difficult time remembering the "number" of syllables they identified, try using a [numbered pop-it!](#)

HEGGERTY 101

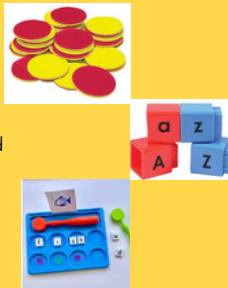
Using these free videos, reinforce the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum your child learns at school. See a sample of kindergarten lessons [here](#). See a sample of first grade lessons [here](#). Learn the [hand motions](#) your child uses for the different skills.



Remember! Phonological awareness skills can be done without any letters! These ear exercises strengthen your students auditory skills. Once your student has mastered these skills without letters, then practice these skills with their letter representation as the *inclusion of letters in a PA curriculum has a multiplier impact on its outcome.*

MANIPULATION

The most advanced phonological skill, phonological and phonemic manipulation is simply the ability to change the sounds in a word. E.g. Say "bat". Now change the /b/ to /s/. What is the new word? "Sat!". With kindergarten students, focus on changing a syllable in a compound word (e.g., Say "cupcake". Now change cup to pound. What is the new word? "Poundcake!". Try practicing this skill *with and without* the alphabet! Watch this helpful [video](#) to see phonemic manipulation in action! Use these [free printable phoneme frames](#) as well.



MAKE SPELLING FUN



SEGMENTING

Segmenting lays the ground work for spelling development. Practice breaking apart the individual words your child hears in a word by asking them to "tap it". E.g., duck is /d/-/u/-/ck/. Some ideas to make segmenting multi-sensory and engaging is to use [alphabet pop-its](#), play-doh, and pipe-cleaners with beads. Try using these [great word lists](#).



Pro Tip: Once your child is ready to segment words with blends (e.g. words beginning/ending in sk, bl, st, fr etc.), make sure they are segmenting both consonants! For example: the word **chest** is segmented as /ch/-/e/-/s/-/t/!

