



## Early literacy skills (sound awareness)

**Sound awareness** is an understanding of how sounds come together to form words.  
**Sound awareness skills** are essential for later reading and writing development.

Early literacy (sound awareness) skills include:

- Identifying sounds at the start and end of words (e.g., *tap* starts with a **t** sound),
- Breaking words into sounds (e.g., *bus* has three sounds, **b...u...s**), and
- The links between speech sounds and letters (i.e. the *sound* each *letter* makes).

## Talk about sounds: Share books and talk about sounds



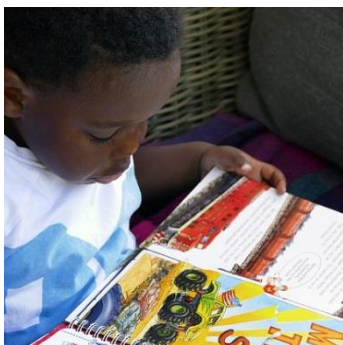
### Play with sounds in words

Play 'I spy' using the pictures in books, or when you are outside.

I spy something *starting with a w sound*.

Make silly sentences using words that start with the same sound.

The *pelican* ate a *pear* and some *pancakes* at the *picnic*.



### Talk about sounds in words

Talk about the sounds you hear at the start and end of words.

This word starts with the *same sound as your name*.

*Dog* and *day* both *start with a d sound*.

*Bag* and *peg* both have a *g sound at the end*.



### Talk about sound-letter links

Look at letters in books, magazines, and on signs and labels.

Point to a letter as you talk about the sound it makes.

This letter is **s**. It makes a *ssss* sound.

Your name is *written* here. The *sounds* in your name are...