

## ➤ *Promoting Children’s Reading Success*

### 1. PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS.

*“Recent research has confirmed that children who have a greater degree of phonological awareness when they enter school are better equipped to learn to read.”*

Children in their preschool years become aware that words have sounds, apart from their meanings. They show this awareness by noticing when words rhyme, by enjoying poems and rhyming songs, by making up silly names for things, like bubbleum for bubblegum. They divide words into their syllables and then put them back together again. They notice when words have the same beginning or ending. During the preschool years, most children acquire some ability to think about the sounds of words independent of their meaning: phonological awareness.

### 2. PHONEMIC AWARENESS

*“This is a crucial step toward understanding the alphabetic principle and, ultimately, toward learning to read.”*

By kindergarten, a child’s phonological awareness can be strengthened to include awareness of phonemes – the smallest meaning units which make up spoken words.

### 3. THE ALPHABETIC PRINCIPLE

*“Although younger preschoolers rarely pay attention to the smallest meaningful segments (phonemes) of words, gaining an awareness of these phonemes is a more advanced aspect of phonological awareness that becomes increasingly important as school approaches, because these segments are what letters usually stand for. That’s the alphabetic principle.”*

It is essential that children understand the notion that written spellings represent in a logical way the sounds of words we say, read and write.

## ➤ *High-quality Preschool*

*“How much of an impact can preschool make in a child’s life? An excellent preschool program can give children long-term benefits that follow them into adulthood. That’s what one study found when researchers tracked children through high school and beyond. In this important study, data revealed that children in an excellent part-day preschool program had less need for special education, less grade retention, and significantly higher high school graduation rates than children who did not attend a preschool.” Starting Out Right, National Research Council*

## ➤ *3 Cornerstones of beginning reading*

1. Recognition of the alphabet
2. Understanding the sounds that letters symbolize
3. Pleasure in book sharing

*from What Children Need in Order to Read by Joyce W. Smothers  
C. MacDonell, IC Libraries, April 2002*

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