Parents, adjust according to your child’s age and ability level.

1. Present books with rhyme, repetition, and rhythm. Mother Goose books, Dr. Seuss books, Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin, and the alphabet books by Edward Lear are favorites.

2. Take field trips. Talk with your child about what you see.


5. Segmentation – Pass your child a cup and ask: “What are the three sounds you hear in the word cup?”, and at the same time, if necessary, extend the sounds while pronouncing the word. Answer: /k/ – /u/ – /p/.


7. Substitution – Point to a bug or similar object and say something like: “A bug. Change the /g/ to /n/. You have something you like to eat. What is it?” Answer: bun.

8. Blending – Whenever you’re talking with your child and using some simple words, like big, stop and say: “Here are the sounds of a word. Guess what the word is.” Then follow with the sounds /b/, /i/, and /g/. Answer: big.

9. Reinforcing phonemic awareness skills needn’t be too elaborate or time consuming. Focus on one specific skill at a time. Five simple minutes, three times a day, will go a long way toward reinforcing that skill.

10. There is no need to fret if your child doesn’t get this right away. It may take a lot of examples, a lot of repeated attempts, and a lot of practice for success.