

Phonological Awareness

(with examples based on NEL K1 English Language Big Book –
Big Brother and Little Brother)

Overview:

Phonological Awareness is the awareness of the sounds in English. It is important as it enables children to recognise the sounds of the English Language. It also provides a good foundation for phonics instruction. These activities aim to teach children to hear and say separate words in speech and also identify whether words rhyme. Phonological Awareness activities are carried out by focusing on the sounds of letters. The print of the letters is not introduced during these activities.

Here's an example of a Phonological Awareness activity idea based on the NEL K1 English Language Big Book.

Learning Goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listening for and repeating words that begin with /ă/ and /b/.• Identifying words that begin with the sounds /ă/ and /b/.
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- Show the children the cover page of *Big Brother and Little Brother* and point out the word *and*. Tell children that *and* begins with the sound /ă/. Get them to repeat after you.
- Show the children how to make the sound /ă/. Get the children to place their thumb and index finger at the corners of their mouth to feel it stretch open as they make the sound /ă/.
- Show the children some words that begin with the sound /ă/. Get them to practise saying the word and beginning sound with you.
- Encourage the children to share other words that begin with the /ă/ sound.
- Then turn to page 10 of *Big Brother and Little Brother* and say *Big Brother sits on his bed*. Tell the children that *bed* begins with the sound /b/. Get them to repeat after you.
- Show the children how to make the sound /b/ by pressing their lips together. Tell the children to place their palm in front of their mouths. They should feel a breath of air when they say /b/.
- Show the children some words that begin with the sound /b/. Get them to practise saying the word and beginning sound with you.
- Encourage the children to share other words that begin with the /b/ sound.
- Conclude the lesson by having the children tell you the sounds they had learnt. This will also give you an opportunity to check if the students have understood the lesson.