

## Kindergarten Phonemic Awareness Assessment

Directions: We're going to play a sound game. I'm going to say a word. You tell me the sounds in order. First, let's practice. Mom. What sounds are in mom? [Student says mmm-ooo-mmm]. Dog. [student says d-ooo-g]. Last example. Hat. [student says h-aaa-t].

1. dad
2. see
3. ask
4. rain
5. clip
6. glow
7. rule
8. may
9. so
10. reach
11. it
12. teeth
13. ground
14. shape
15. to
16. light
17. shred
18. dug
19. my
20. clay

## **Teacher Instructions:**

This assessment is designed for Kindergartners. Ideally, the assessment is administered before the child has had explicit phonemic awareness training.

Be sure to repeat the directions if the student says letter names. Give the student some feedback after each response. If the student miscues on one sound, count the whole answer as incorrect. Write thorough notes about each mistake. Your student's miscues will help you identify those students who are sensitive to poor reading instruction.

### **Analyze the Assessment**

Analyze each mistake. Does your student miscue on words with two, three or four phonemes? Does the child miscue on long or short vowels? Does the student tend to miss the beginning, middle or ending phoneme? Are blends particularly challenging? [Blends are two letter sounds in succession as in words like clip and ground]

### **Research-Based Intervention**

A phonemic awareness assessment is one of the few indicators of future reading struggles. Scores range from 0-20 answers correct. Kindergartners who receive a low score in comparison with their peers will likely need leveled, systematic, explicit phonics instruction to learn to read. An extremely low score is a sign of a reading disability like dyslexia.

### **Design Leveled Phonemic Awareness Activities**

After you analyze your students' errors, design phonemic awareness activities. Make sure about 70% of the phonemic awareness activity is easy and 30% is challenging. For example, if your student struggles with four phonemes, make sure only 3 out of 10 words include four phonemes. This will ensure that your student feels successful in the activity.

Here's a sample activity word list: note, fin, dot, when, at, miss, do, flake

TEACHER: [Line up four toy trains/cars/animal cutouts from left to right.]  
Note. What sounds are in fin?

STUDENT: fff-iii-nnn

Be sure the student holds all continuous sounds. Correct all miscues immediately. The activity should be simple and short.