

PHONOLOGY

in Words Their Way: Classroom

What is phonology?

Phonology is the sound structure of spoken words. Phonemic awareness—the ability to distinguish, segment, blend, and manipulate sounds relevant to reading and spelling—is central to phonology. Phonemes are the smallest unit of sound in language.

Why is knowledge of phonology important in learning to read?

The English language includes 44 distinct sounds. Phonemic awareness—hearing the smallest unit of sound in language—is a critical precursor skill that is important for learning to read.

How does *Words Their Way: Classroom* support the development of phonology?

- Picture sorts give students practice with identifying rhyming words.
- Picture sorts provide students with practice categorizing words by initial phonemes (beginning consonants and consonant digraphs) and vowel sounds.
- The program provides additional practice with blending and segmenting games such as Build, Blend, and Extend; Push-and-Say; and Sound Boxes.

PHONOLOGY EXAMPLES

from *Words Their Way Classroom*

Picture Sort: Initial Phoneme

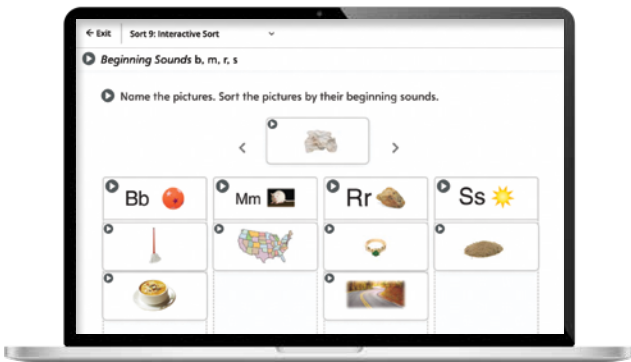


After specific phonemes have been explicitly taught, this picture sort provides tactile, multisensory additional practice for students to identify words by their initial phoneme.

Picture Sort: Rhyming Words



This picture sort—available in print and digitally—provides practice for identifying words that rhyme.



After specific phonemes have been explicitly taught, this digital picture sort lets students hear the word and drag-and-drop to sort words by their initial phoneme.

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