

Phoneme Chains

Focus Area: Phonemic Awareness - Sound Manipulation

Timing: 5-10 minutes

Materials:

- List(s) of words with one sound change

Procedure:

- Say the first word in the chain and have students repeat the word. Then tell them to change the initial sound, and provide them with the sound you want them to use.
 - “Say ‘dog’.” “dog”
 - “Instead of /d/, say /h/.” “hog”
 - “Instead of /g/, say /p/.” “hop”
 - “Instead of /o/, say /i/.” “hip”
 - “Instead of /h/, say /s/.” “sip”
 - “Instead of /i/, say /a/.” “sap”
- Begin by changing just initial sounds, then final sounds, then medial sounds.
- When they get the hang of it, you can create a chain (as above) where you are changing all sounds in one chain.
- To make it more difficult, you can use blends and add or delete sounds (e.g., leave out the /n/ in “snack”; change the /k/ to /s/ in “clash”).

Sample Word Chains

Changing Initial Sounds

hat → cat → mat → sat → rat → fat → bat → pat

ring → sing → ping → ding → king → wing

cake → rake → make → take → fake → bake → lake → wake

head → bed → red → led → fed → shed → dead

feet → meet → seat → beat → sheet → heat → neat

Changing Final Sounds

gate → game → gail → gauge → gain → gaze → gape

leak → lead → leap → leaf → league → leave → lean

Changing Medial Sounds

him → ham → hem → hum

clock → click → clack → cluck

Changing Varied Sounds

sun → fun → fan → ran → rat → rot → bought → boss → bus → fuss

glass → glad → plaid → plan → pan → pen → pet → let → lot → faught

shed → shell → bell → belt → melt → malt → salt → fault → felt