

Sound Isolation

Focus Area: Phonemic Awareness – Manipulation of initial phonemes

Timing: 5-10 minutes

Materials:

- A collection of songs that are familiar to students

Procedure:

- Choose a tune with which the students are familiar
- Instead of singing the words, choose a phoneme to focus on and substitute this phoneme for the words. For example, if you are singing “Happy Birthday” you would sing Lala lala la la... Sing again with a different phoneme Tata tata ta ta...
- When students become proficient at this, sing the songs with the words, but replace the first sound of each word with a focus phoneme. For example, Bappy birthday bo bou.
- For fun, have the students change all their names to start with the focus phoneme (Tom becomes Bom and Sally becomes Bally).
- If necessary, to warm-up, say each word in the song and have the students practice saying it with the replacement phoneme. Teacher: “Happy becomes.....?” Student: “Bappy!”

Adapted from: O'Connor, R. E., D. W., Notari-Syverson, A., & Vadasy, P. F. (2005). *Ladders to Literacy: A Kindergarten Activity Book (2nd Edition)*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.