

# Why is phonemic awareness the most useful skill to teach beginner readers?

## Phonological awareness

alliteration: Ali alligator acts angrily.

rhyme: fat, cat, mat, hat, pat, rat

onset and rime: h-at, m-at, p-at

syllables – mag-net, lift-ed, sing-ing

**phonemic awareness** - /m/ /a/ /t/  
Identifying and manipulating single sounds in words

Beginner readers need to be able to blend, segment and manipulate **single sounds** in words because this is how the Alphabetic Code works.

## Phonics

Alphabetic principle: **letters spell single sounds (phonemes)** in words

Alphabetic Code: **phoneme/grapheme correspondences**: cat, ship, night, through

**Blending single sounds** into words for reading

**Segmenting single sounds** for spelling

**Deleting, adding or substituting single sounds** when working out new words