

Sound Bytes

What is “Sound Bytes” and why is it important?

“Sound Bytes” (Ball & Blachman, 1988) is an activity that will help your child develop phonemic awareness, that is, an understanding that words are composed of a series of sounds. This activity helps your child listen for and isolate sounds in a word, a necessary skill in reading.

How can I use “Sound Bytes” with my child?

Encourage your child to listen to the word that you say and tell you what sound occurs at the beginning of the word. He will be saying a single sound or “sound byte.” Repeat the procedure with different sounds. Your child should repeat the sound, not the letter. After your child is comfortable identifying and repeating initial sounds, have him listen for ending sounds and then middle sounds of words.

Initial Sounds:

cat /c/

ramp /r/

lap /l/

Final Sounds:

cab /b/

snap /p/

trip /p/

Middle Sounds:

butter /t/

slipper /p/

funny /n/