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Tests of Phonological Awareness

What are the Tests of Phonological Awareness?

The Tests of Phonological Awareness are informal assessments developed by Steven Stahl that evaluate a student's awareness of the sound structure of spoken language. Because phonological awareness develops before reading, these assessments help identify foundational skills that support successful reading and spelling. Additional phonological awareness assessments are administered when assessment data or student performance indicate they are needed.

What does it measure?

The assessments examine skills such as:

- Rhyming
- Syllable awareness
- Phoneme isolation
- Phoneme blending
- Phoneme segmentation
- Phoneme manipulation

These skills are critical building blocks for decoding, encoding, and word recognition.

Why do we use it?

Strong phonological awareness is one of the best predictors of early reading success. Understanding a student's phonological awareness allows tutors to identify underlying skill gaps that may be contributing to reading or spelling difficulties.

How do the results inform instruction?

Tutors use the results to:

- Target specific phonological awareness skills.
- Build foundational decoding abilities.
- Support accurate spelling.
- Develop intervention activities that match each student's needs.

Why it matters

These assessments focus on spoken language rather than printed words. Students listen, speak, and manipulate sounds to demonstrate how they process language, providing valuable information that guides instruction.