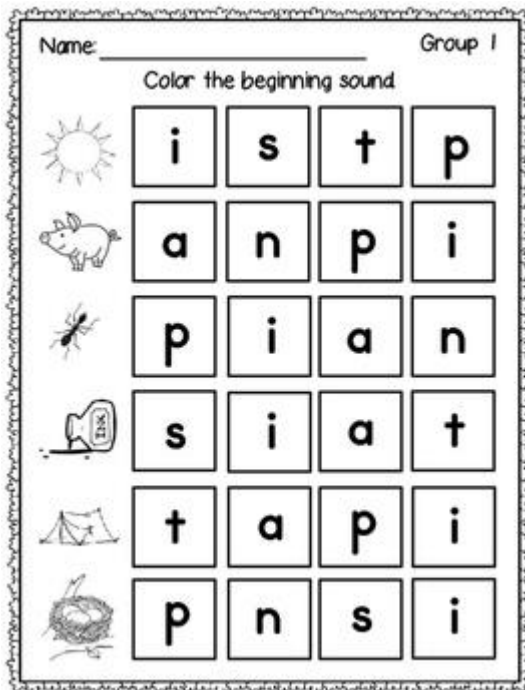


## Phonemic Awareness Activity - "I'm Thinking"

By: Mariah Garcia

According to Caldwell, 2014, Phonemic Awareness is the ability to perceive words in which can be divided into individual sounds. Many early literacy children use this oral language to become aware of the language elements such as syllables, words, and sounds. This is the foundation the child needs to identify and spell words with a consciousness of words as individual units composed of sounds. Developing such an awareness takes time and practice. The activity I chose to develop phonological awareness is utilizing the game, "I'm Thinking."

The game, "I'm Thinking," is a fun and interacting game to use with an individual, pairs, small groups, or even a class. As the author, Mairéad Ní Mhurchú, explains this game helps children ability to identify and categorize initial sounds in an oral way. How this game is played is that the teacher will demonstrate to the students that they are thinking of something that starts with /s/. Then proceed to describe it: it has two legs and can fly. But, if the students seem to not get the answer then the teacher can say, "It's a bird by the ocean." As the students answer, then she can demonstrate another example. The teacher can use the initial sound /d/ and describe that it can bark and likes to play fetch. Then when the students become more aware of the initial sounds, the teacher can then pair the students and give them a worksheet that has a picture with four initial letters on the side. Then the students can go through the worksheet and can write which initial sound goes with the picture.












Source:

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[ed=2ahUKEwicpfCn9JjZAhVCyoMKHZlhB\\_YQjRx6BAgAEAY&url=https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Phonics-Beginning-Sound-Worksheets-1324497&psig=AOvVaw2J25xxaHLnXok0B5z1M9MV&ust=1518268289546841](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Phonics-Beginning-Sound-Worksheets-1324497&psig=AOvVaw2J25xxaHLnXok0B5z1M9MV&ust=1518268289546841)

**Beginning Sounds r, s, t**

Say the name of each picture aloud. Circle the beginning sound.

 f r p	 q l t	 s m k
 g t q	 r b c	 k s f
 p n s	 d t m	 v h r

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Phonological awareness is crucial to a student learning and gives a variation of skills to become a fluent reader. As the teacher transitions from activities, this gives the student a sense of adaptability and comfort in what they are learning. It broadens their thought process and helps in forming the initial sounds of the syllable to help recognize by the formation they make with their mouth and the what they hear as they say the syllable. This can be used with any early literacy student and with those who struggle with saying and recognizing the initial sounds and syllables.

References:

Caldwell, J. S. 2014. *Early Literacy Reading Assessment: A Primer for Teachers in the Common Core Era*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Mhurchú, M. N. Developing Phonological Awareness in the Infant Classes. Retrieved from <http://www.pdst.ie/sites/default/files/Phonological%20Awareness%20Infants.pdf>