

Learning Center Activity for Phonemic Awareness – Sound Hop

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a. Introduction

- Phonemic Awareness, as defined by JoAnne Schudt Caldwell in *Reading Assessment A Primer for Teachers in the Common Core Era*, is “the awareness that words can be divided into individual sounds” (p. 119). An expanded explanation of Phonemic Awareness includes the ability to both identify and manipulate sounds, which include syllables, onsets, and rimes. Phonemic Awareness is one of the most important skills beginning students must master if they are to have future success in reading and writing. A simple, yet interactive activity for students to practice Phonemic Awareness is Sound Hop.

b. Body

- Sound Hop is an easy and fun activity any teacher can use to teach their students about manipulating phonemes. I learned about activity online from Mrs. Ricca’s kindergarten blog spot. However, I did expand the activity to have students manipulate words. The materials needed to create this activity are construction paper, scissors, a pencil, a cup, and cut up strips of paper. First, the construction paper will need to be cut into circular pieces large enough for students to stand and hop onto. Next, the strips of paper will be used to write words, such as “cat” or “car” that can be manipulated by altering the beginning letter(s) or adding an ending (i.e., “s”). Write at least fifteen words on strips of paper then place these in a cup. These strips may be used multiple repeatedly.
- Before playing Sound Hop, it should be noted that this activity works best with small groups. Nevertheless, the activity may be use for a larger group of students (though patience will be needed!). To play sound hop, students will begin at the beginning circle (the start). Students will take turns picking a strip of paper from the cup. The word will be read to the student, followed by an explanation of what would happen if the word was manipulated with the manipulation to be changed on the back of the strip of paper. If the student is able to correctly identify the manipulated word, they made “hop” onto the circles for each of the phonemes there are in the word (i.e., “rap” would allow the student to hop onto three circles). Together, all the students will sound out the phonemes for the word the student is hopping out. If the student is unable to identify the manipulated word, they must take a step back. The first student to reach the “end” of the circles wins. However, the goal of the activity is for every student to eventually reach the finish line.



c. Conclusion

- Child learn by experiencing their world using their five senses. In many modern classrooms, having students sit in their seats and complete worksheets has become a monotonous commonality. By restricting students to work and no “play”, they are being restricted to a passive learning environment. To prevent this type of learning environment, foster student’s learning by providing authentic and interactive learning experiences. Kinesthetic learning activities not only allows children to connect concrete concepts to action, but also excites students about learning.

d. References

Caldwell, J.S. (2014). *Reading assessment: A primer for teachers in the common core era*. 3rd Edition. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Ricca, N. (2013). Phonemic awareness. Retrieved from:
<http://mrsriccaskindergarten.blogspot.com/search/label/Phonemic%20Awareness>