



Phonemic Awareness Task Cards

Pre-K to Grade 1

80 Task Cards (Purely Oral - No Print Required)

Segmenting, Blending, Rhyming, Onset-Rime, Manipulation

Color-Coded by Skill Level

Teacher Instruction Cards & Answer Keys

Student Recording Sheets

Science of Reading Aligned

LISTEN * CHOP * SMASH * SPLIT * SWITCH

UM PRINTABLES

Skill Overview & Color Coding System

These task cards are designed to be entirely ORAL. Students do not need to know their letters or how to read to complete these activities. This aligns with the Science of Reading, which identifies phonemic awareness as a strictly auditory skill.

Color	Skill	Icon Action	Cards	Description
Red	Rhyming	RHYME IT	1 - 16	Identifying and producing rhyming words.
Green	Segmenting	CHOP IT	17 - 32	Breaking words into individual sounds (3 & 4 phonemes).
Blue	Blending	SMASH IT	33 - 48	Pushing individual sounds together to make a word.
Purple	Onset-Rime	SPLIT IT	49 - 64	Separating the first sound from the rest of the word.
Orange	Manipulation	SWITCH IT	65 - 80	Substituting or deleting sounds to make new words.

Teacher Instruction Cards

Print these pages to keep with your card sets for quick reference during small groups.

Rhyming (Cards 1-16)

1. Tell the student: "We are going to listen for words that sound the same at the end."
2. Cards 1-8: Read the three words aloud. Ask: "Which two words end with the same sound?"
3. Cards 9-16: Say the target word. Ask: "Can you tell me a word that rhymes with [word]?" Accept any nonsense word that rhymes, but encourage real words.
4. Scaffold: If struggling, stretch the sounds of the ending (e.g., c-aaa-t).

Segmenting (Cards 17-32)

1. Tell the student: "We are going to chop words into tiny sounds."
2. Model: Say "pig." Then say it slowly like a robot: "/p/ /i/ /g/."
3. Cards 17-24: Point to a 3-sound word. Ask: "Can you chop this word into sounds?"
4. Cards 25-32: Point to a 4-sound word. Ask: "Can you chop this word into sounds?"
5. Use visual aids: Give the student 3 or 4 small blocks. Have them push a block forward for every sound they say.

Blending (Cards 33-48)

1. Tell the student: "We are going to smash sounds together to make a word."
2. Cards 33-40: Say the sounds with a 1-second pause between each. Say: "What word is /m/ /a/ /p/?"
3. Cards 41-48: Say the 4 sounds. If they struggle, say the sounds faster.
4. Scaffold: Stretch the sounds together initially (e.g., "mmmmaaaaaap") before saying them segmented.

Onset-Rime (Cards 49-64)

1. Tell the student: "We are going to split words into two parts: the first sound, and the rest of the word."
2. Cards 49-56: Say the word. Ask: "What is the very first sound you hear in [word]?"
3. Cards 57-64: Say the two parts. Say: "If I put /c/ together with -at, what word do I get?"
4. This bridges the gap between blending and traditional phonics.

Manipulation (Cards 65-80)

1. Tell the student: "We are going to play a trick with words. We are going to change sounds."
2. Cards 65-72 (Substitution): Say the word. Say: "Take [word]. Change the first sound to /x/. What is the new word?"
3. Cards 73-80 (Deletion): Say the word. Say: "Take [word]. Say it without the /x/ sound. What is left?"
4. Scaffold: Use letter tiles or blocks. physically remove or swap the tile to match the auditory command.

Task Cards

Print on cardstock, laminate, and cut. Put on a binder ring sorted by color.

RHYME

1

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

cat bat dog

RHYME

2

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

pig dig sun

RHYME

3

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

hat mop sat

RHYME

4

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

bug rug pen

RHYME

5

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

net hen log

RHYME

6

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

cup pup flag

RHYME

7

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

ring king bed

RHYME

8

LISTEN carefully.

Which two words rhyme?

fog dog map

RHYME

9

SAY a word out loud.

Say a word that rhymes
with: sun

RHYME

10

SAY a word out loud.

Say a word that rhymes
with: bed

RHYME

11

SAY a word out loud.

Say a word that rhymes
with: boat

RHYME

12

SAY a word out loud.

Say a word that rhymes
with: cake
