

Exercise Description: Phonic Words

Phonic Words presents two pictures that represent words differing by an initial or final consonant (or both). For example, the participant may see a picture of a lake and a picture of a rake. The participant then hears a target word, such as lake. The participant must identify and click the picture that matches the target word.

Phonic Words' Goals

The goals of Phonic Words are to:

- Improve identification and discrimination of phonemes (phonological awareness)
- Increase the speed at which the participant identifies and understands rapid, successive changes in sound (listening accuracy)
- Improve the participant's ability to recognize spoken words (auditory word recognition)

How Phonic Words Accomplishes Its Goals

Phonic Words develops phonological awareness skills by helping the participant learn to distinguish between words that differ by initial or final sound (or both), such as rake and lake.

Phonic Words accomplishes this goal by first presenting highly stretched and emphasized words where the duration of each phoneme has been increased (for example, lake is initially presented as lllaaakkke) and where the intensity of each rapidly changing sound (such as the /b/ in ba) has been enhanced relative to the vowel sound. As the participant progresses through the exercise, Phonic Words decreases the amount of stretch and emphasis, and eventually presents the words in natural speech.

Phonic Words helps the participant develop listening accuracy by first presenting highly stretched and emphasized phonemes and adaptively decreasing the phoneme stretch and emphasis. Because words are presented, Phonic Words helps the participant work on improving auditory word recognition.

How Scores Are Calculated for Phonic Words

The score for Phonic Words is based on how far the participant advances through the word pairs at the five speech levels (degrees of modification for listening accuracy). The aggregate score for Phonic Words, Phoneme Identification, and Old MacDonald's Flying Farm determines the phonological awareness score.

How Phonic Words' Goals Relate to Your School's Goals

Because Phonic Words helps participants learn to recognize and discriminate words that differ by an initial and/or final sound, Phonic Words prepares participants to master more advanced phonological awareness skills. These advanced skills, which are components of state curriculum goals, include:

- Decoding
- Blending sounds to form words
- Adding, deleting, or changing target sounds in order to change words