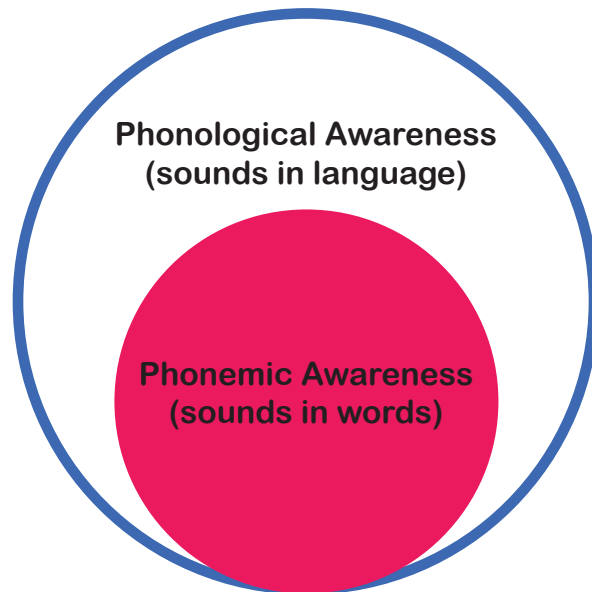


Critical Concepts about Phonological Awareness and the SightWords.com Curriculum

1. Phonological awareness is *not* the same thing as phonics. It is the foundation that makes learning phonics possible!
2. Phonological awareness refers to the sounds in *language*. It includes phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness refers only to the sounds in *words*.



3. Pure phonological awareness skills can be learned blindfolded; however, young children often benefit from pictures to help them understand phonological awareness tasks and activities.
4. Always name all the pictures used in an activity before you begin teaching the lesson. This insures that everyone is using the correct word for each picture.
5. Phonological awareness skills have a developmental hierarchy that is reflected in the modules of this curriculum. Refer to the Pacing Guide to see the ages at which the various skills usually develop.
6. Blending sounds is easier for children than separating sounds. The lessons within the modules reflect this progression. Follow the scope and sequence of this curriculum—do *not* randomly skip around. You will get better results and less frustration.
7. Review and practice previously learned skills while learning new ones. Children enjoy playing games they already know and are good at, and they will experience less frustration.