

# Phonological awareness

# What is phonological awareness?

It's the ability to understand that spoken words are made up of sounds and to recognise how they come together to form words.

When you have it, it means you can do things like:

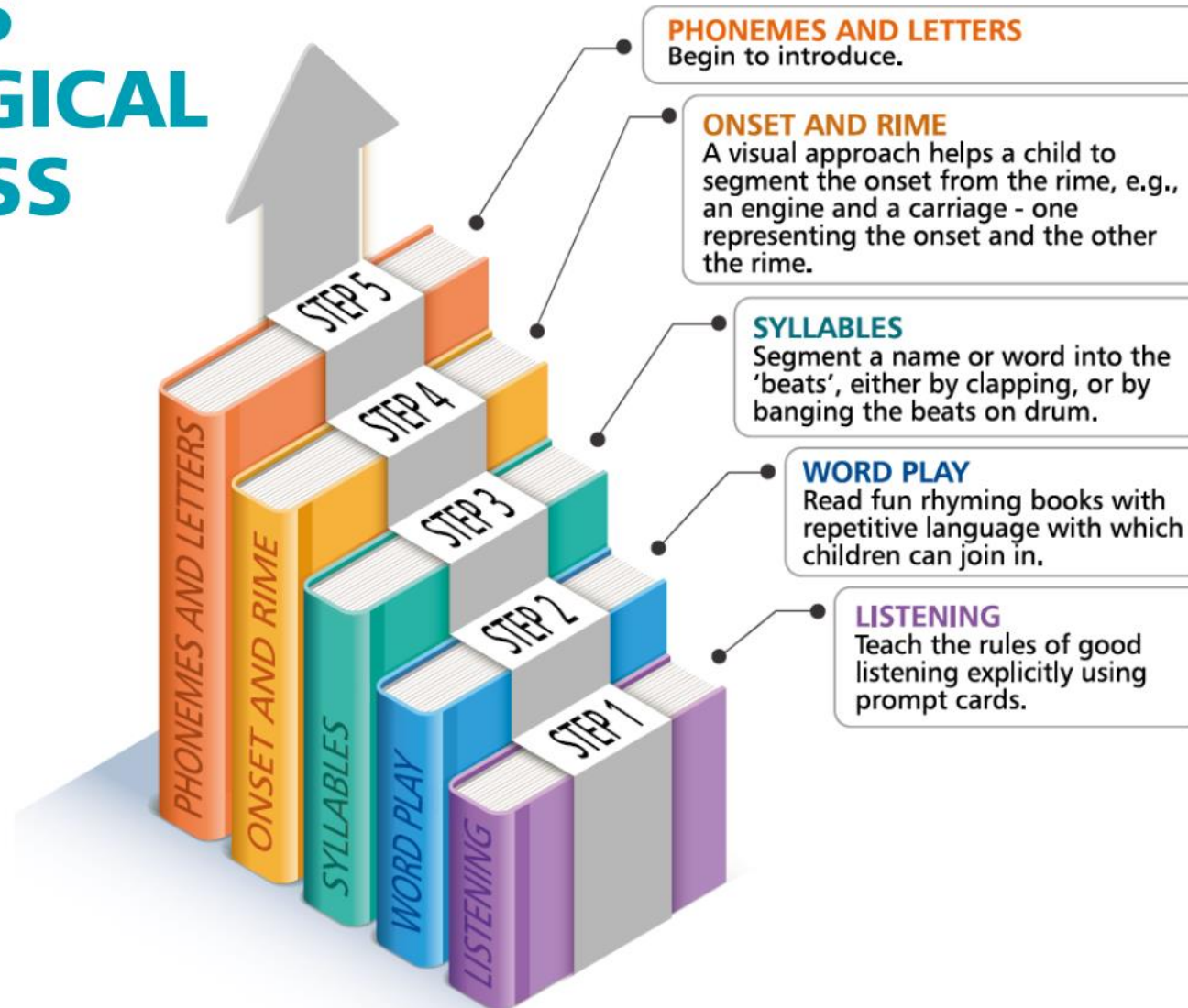
- Break down words into syllables,
- Recognise words that rhyme,
- Break words into sounds,
- Blend sounds together to make words.

# Why is phonological awareness important?

- Literacy skills.
- Vocabulary.
- Clear speech.

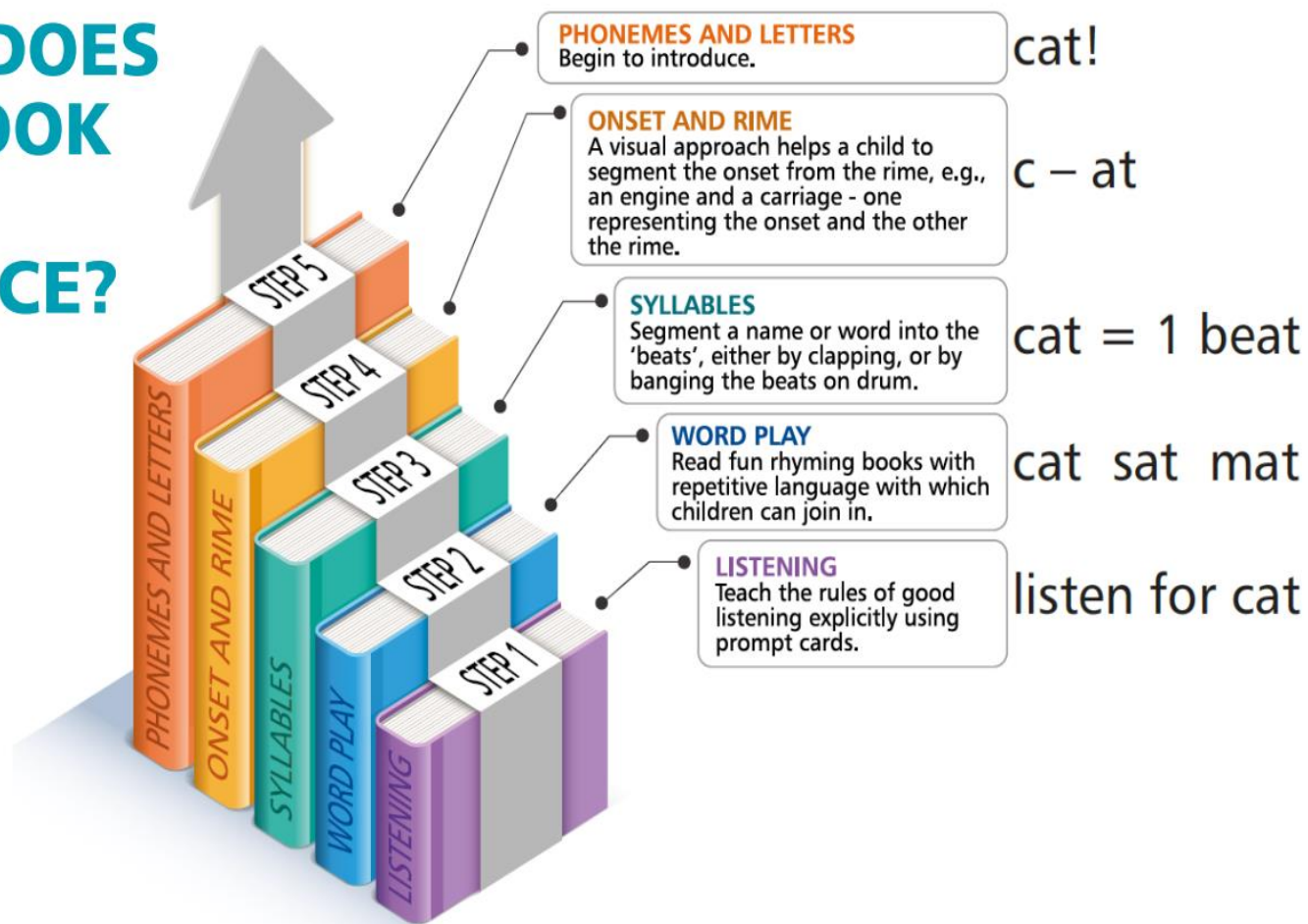
It is skill required for reading but also improves with more reading...

# HOW DOES PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS DEVELOP?



# Write down the word cat...

## WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?



# Children with poor phonological skills might struggle with...

- Recognising or generating rhyming words.
- Clapping out or counting syllables in words.
- Hearing the difference between sounds, especially similar sounds.
- Pronouncing words correctly.

# Why might children experience difficulties with developing phonological awareness?

- **Some children, for various reasons, do not start school with the phonological awareness skills needed to develop their literacy.**
  - hearing
  - speech and language issues
  - learning disabilities
  - poor exposure to spoken language structure
  - language delay.
  - attention and listening.
  - organisation and sequencing difficulties.
  - auditory memory.
  - understanding of concepts.

- **These children may begin to learn sounds and letters but may not make good progress in reading and writing because they lack crucial foundation phonological awareness.**
  - A child may be able to learn that an individual letter makes a particular sound, but if they are unable to identify the individual sounds within a word, they will not be able to blend and segment when reading and spelling.



# WHAT CAN WE DO TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS SKILLS?

Things you probably do already!

- Reading aloud to children regularly.
- Offering a variety of books, songs and rhymes.
- Pointing out rhyming words and alliteration in books and other activities.

What we do in school:

Phonological awareness intervention

Play with sounds and words

If a child is struggling to make progress with reading or spelling we may assess phonological skills and teach the skills they are missing.

# Phonological assessment

- ▶ Syllables
- ▶ Rhyme detection
- ▶ Rhyme generation
- ▶ Alliteration detection
- ▶ Alliteration generation
- ▶ Phoneme blending
- ▶ Phoneme segmentation

# Some games you can play

- ▶ Copycats-clap rhythm, clap “beats” in words.
- ▶ Hide and seek (find picture that starts with target sound)
- ▶ Syllable clap (with syllable cards)
- ▶ I went to the market... or Alphabet animals (things starting with particular sound)
- ▶ Syllable pairs
- ▶ Rhyming pairs