Waterford’s Instructional Strands for Literacy are aligned with the Essential Components of Reading identified by the National Reading Panel (NICHD, 2000).

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS IS THE ABILITY TO HEAR THE SOUNDS THAT MAKE UP SPOKEN LANGUAGE.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS skills are the LISTENING skills that are the foundation for learning to read.

The development of phonological awareness skills follows a progression from attention to larger units of spoken language (syllables) to smaller ones (onset/rime and individual phonemes).

Phonemes are the individual sounds in words and don’t necessarily match the number of letters. Eat has two phonemes—/ē/-/t/. Chin has three phonemes—/ch/-/i/-/n/. Stop has four phonemes—/s/-/t/-/o/-/p/.

LESS COMPLEX

Beginning
- Syllables
- Rhyme (Alliteration)
- Onset/Rime (Blending, Segmentation)
- Beginning Phonemic Awareness

Developing
- Phoneme Isolation (Initial, Final, Medial)
- Phoneme Blending
- Phoneme Sementation

Advanced
- Phoneme Manipulation (Deletion, Addition, Substitution)

MORE COMPLEX
BEGINNING PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
Students hear and identify the larger units of sound in words—syllables and onset/rime.

Syllables
Determine the number of syllables in a spoken word.

Rhyme
Determine which word has the same rhyme as cat, hat, and bat.

Onset/Rime
Determine whether the spoken onset and rime blend to make the word represented by the picture.

INTERMEDIATE PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
Students isolate, blend, and segment individual phonemes in words.

Phoneme Isolation
Determine the position of a specific phoneme in a spoken word.

Phoneme Blending
Determine whether a series of phonemes blends to make the word represented by the picture.

Phoneme Segmentation
Determine the number of phonemes in a spoken word.

ADVANCED PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS
Research shows that becoming a fluent reader requires advanced phonemic awareness skills—the ability to manipulate phonemes in words.

PHONEME MANIPULATION

Deletion
Determine the new word that is formed when a specific phoneme is deleted.

Addition
Determine the new word that is formed when a specific phoneme is added.

Substitution
Form and identify new words by substituting individual phonemes.

Waterford Phonological Awareness Activity
Students blend phonemes and identify the word that is formed.

Waterford Phonics Activity
For the same word, students connect sounds (phonemes) with letters (graphemes) to decode and identify the word.