



Myth:

We acquire most of our phonological awareness from language rich environments

Fact:

Regardless how rich in language and literacy one's environment may be, phonological awareness must be explicitly taught. Phonological awareness is the ability to recognize and manipulate the spoken parts of sentences and words. Examples include being able to identify words that rhyme, recognize alliteration, segment a sentence into words, identify syllables in a word, and blend and segment onset-rimes. The Report of the National Reading Panel: Teaching Children to Read, published in 2000, states that explicit phonological awareness instruction is highly effective for developing phonological awareness in children, which in turn prepares them to read words and comprehend text.