

## **Auditory Awareness/Skills refer to ALL of the sounds we hear.**

- Auditory processing refers to:

Detection “I hear that.”

Discrimination “That sounds different.”

Identification “I recognize that sound/word.”

Comprehension “I understand your message.”

## **Phonological Awareness/Skills refer to the sounds of spoken language.**

- Phonological awareness refers to:

Word awareness: recognizing how many words are in a sentence

Syllable awareness: clap and tap syllables within words, blend syllables to make a word

Rhyme knowledge: recognize rhyming word patterns and generate rhyming partners

Alliteration and Initial sound awareness: identify initial consonant sounds and create a series of words that begin with the same consonant sounds

Phoneme awareness: begin able to identify individual sounds within a word

- Students with good phonological awareness usually become good readers.
- **Poor phonological awareness skills is the most common cause of poor reading.**
- Reading problems can be prevented if all students are trained in phonological awareness and letter-sound skills.
- Students with reading problems can understand and produce speech sounds. Their phonological issues relate to PARTS of words, not WHOLE words.
- What is a Phoneme?

- Smallest unit of sound in spoken words
- Alphabetic systems use letters to represent phonemes
- Phonemes are oral and letters are written
- In English, phonemes and letters do not always match up

## **Phoneme awareness is a subcategory of phonological awareness**

- Phoneme discrimination
  - Children can tell the difference between two words that differ by only one letter
    - up, us
    - toy, boy
  - At around 6-7 years of age, children can understand why the words sound different from each other, this is the awareness of phoneme awareness.
- 60-70% of children develop phoneme awareness naturally.
  - Others require explicit instruction
  - Basic phonological skills, like rhyming, alliteration, first sound awareness and syllable segmentation can start in pre-school.
  - In kindergarten, all children should receive formal phonological awareness training
  - Typical first and second graders can learn to read more quickly and efficiently when they are trained in phoneme awareness
  - There are some students with average potential who never reach full potential because their teachers are unaware of the student's phoneme awareness difficulties