

Phonemic Awareness Strategy

Strategy: Rhyming Tic-Tac-Toe. Given a word, students will provide additional words that rhyme.

Appropriate Grade Level: K-2

Materials Needed:

- A dry erase board, with tic-tac-toe spaces filled with target words and/or pictures of target words
- A dry erase marker and eraser

Procedures/Steps: If the group consists of more than two students, put the students into two teams, one for X and one for O.

1. The first student or team picks the square on the board where they would like to put an X or O.
2. One student from that team reads the word in that square, then, tells a word that rhymes. (For example, if the student picks the center space that says *ten*, he/she would read *ten* out loud, then, give a rhyming word for it, e.g., *men, hen, then*, etc.). The teacher decides whether acceptable rhyming words include real words and/or nonsense words.
3. If the word given rhymes with the game board word, then that student or team places and X or O in that square. If it does not rhyme, then nothing on the board is changed.
4. The next student or team takes a turn.
5. Continue steps 2 through 4 until one student or team gets “tic-tac-toe,” or until the board is full.

Comments/Tips:

- To have students attend to word patterns rather than rhyming, ask them to provide a word with the same pattern and conduct this activity during a word analysis lesson.
- To make the game more challenging, fill the board spaces with words that are relatively new or have a tricky pattern, and have the students read the word correctly, rather than rhyming, to win that space on the board.
- For *English language learners*, place word cards with pictures in the board spaces to reinforce vocabulary.

Source: Scammacca, N., Vaughn, S., Roberts, G, Wanzek, J. and Torgesen, J. (2007). Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades K-3: From Research to Practice.