

Phonological Awareness Lessons:

Fast and Slow

Why This Lesson Is Important

In this game, children will learn to listen for sound attributes: fast and slow, loud and soft, short and long. This is an important step in training children to listen.

Preparation

- Find the pair of rhythm sticks. (You can use wooden spoons.)

Direct Teaching Lesson

(5 minutes)

1. Tell the students that you are going to play a game where they need to listen to some rhythms. They need to tell you if the rhythm is fast or slow.
2. Play a fast rhythm and let the students tell you that it is fast. Prompt them if necessary.
3. Play a slow rhythm and let the students tell you that it is slow. Prompt them if necessary. Play various rhythms, some fast and some slow. Pause after each for the students to tell you if the rhythm was fast or slow.
4. On other days, play the same game using the attributes of loud and soft or short and long sounds.
5. When the students are very comfortable with the game, let them take turns being the "teacher." The "teacher" can play rhythms and the rest of the class can determine the correct attribute.

Tips

- Have fun with playing the rhythms. Exaggerate your movements to show that you are going to play a fast rhythm or a slow rhythm.
- When the students are comfortable with the game, use exaggerated movements that indicate that you will play a certain type of rhythm, then play the opposite. This will help them concentrate on using their listening skills.

Practice Throughout Your Day

- Discuss other types of sound attributes throughout the day. For example, high or low, raspy or smooth. As you hear different sounds throughout the day, talk about what attributes describe that sound. Brainstorm other sounds that have similar attributes.