

TABLE 7.2

Benchmarks of Normal Development in Phonological Awareness

GRADE LEVEL **AVERAGE CHILD'S ABILITY**

Beginning kindergarten	Can tell whether two words rhyme, can generate a rhyme for a simple word (e.g., cat or dot), or can easily be taught to do these tasks.
End of kindergarten	Can isolate and pronounce the beginning sound in a word (e.g., /n/ in nose or /f/ in fudge). Can blend the sounds in two-phoneme words [e.g., boy (/b/-/oi/) or me (/m/-/e/)].
Midway through first grade	Can isolate and pronounce all the sounds in two and three-phoneme words. Can blend the sounds in four-phoneme words containing initial consonant blends.
End of first grade	Can isolate and pronounce the sounds in four-phoneme words containing initial blends. Can blend the sounds in four and five-phoneme words containing initial and final blends.

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