

1. Look for a folk song, nursery rhyme, or camp song that would be suitable for developing a component of phonemic awareness in young children. Adapt the song as necessary. Teach the song to a small group of kindergarten children. What did you observe about the increased awareness of the identified sounds through this exercise?

2. Browse through some children's books in your local bookstore or library without first researching which ones are recommended in Appendix A of this book. With phonemic awareness in mind, identify those books that would help students develop awareness of sounds in our language. Write down the names of the books you have identified, and then compare them with the ones in Appendix A or other lists compiled by literacy professionals.

3. Interview two kindergarten teachers. Ask them what activities they use to teach phonemic awareness to their students. If possible, observe several of these activities. How do they differentiate these activities for their English learners? Summarize your findings for your classmates.

4. Administer the Quick Phonemic Awareness Assessment Device in Appendix E to a child in kindergarten. From this assessment, determine which components of phonemic awareness the child has mastered and which he or she needs to develop. Then select three activities from this chapter and from one of the resources (Appendix B) or websites (Appendix C) to enhance the specific needs of the child.