Phonological Awareness: Key Terms and Definitions for Teachers

Key Term	Definition
Phonological Awareness	The understanding that spoken language can be broken down into parts and the ability to manipulate those parts at the word, syllable, onset-rime, and phoneme levels.
Phonemic Awareness /m//ă//t/	The ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds in spoken words.
Phoneme /m/	The smallest unit of sound in spoken words. Mat has three phonemes: /m//ă//t/.
Print Knowledge This letter's name is M. This letter's sound is /m/.	Knowing letter names (M), letters sounds (/m/), and concepts of print.
Phonics mat mat. mat.	Using printed letters and letter-sound relationships to read words.
Alphabetic Principle mat /m//ā/f// mat.	The understanding that there are systematic and predictable relationships between written letters and spoken sounds.