

### Handout 3.2C: Grab a Group Activity

**Grab a Group** is a fun activity to reinforce phonemic awareness. After students have learned to segment one-syllable words of three to four phonemes, use this activity for a couple of minutes several times during the day.

#### Important Instructional Tips:

1. Be sure the students can see your mouth and lips.
2. Say the word and use it in a sentence.
3. After you say a word, have the students repeat the word.
4. When segmenting the word, be sure students say the sounds of the phonemes, not the letter names.
5. Model each step several times before the students are expected to work independently.
6. When the groups have formed, check that the students are correct by having students repeat the word, say the phonemes while raising a finger for each sound, then reforming their groups if necessary to match the correct number of phonemes.
7. To make the game more challenging, add more difficult words with more phonemes. However, only use one-syllable words.
8. Students can also make up nonsense words. The idea is to perceive the sounds; the words do not need to be real words.

#### Sample Script:

*Listen, the word is **me**. What word? (Students say “me”). Will you play with **me**? What word? Yes, **me**. Listen to the sounds. (Enunciate clearly, exaggerating mouth movements. Do not put a “uh” on the end of the sounds; clip the sounds. Raise a finger as you say each sound, using your left hand so the sequence moves from left to right for the students in front of you). **mmmmmmmm eeeeeeeee**. How many sounds? (“2”). Yes! Two sounds. Let’s say it together: **mmmmmmmm eeeeeee**. Now say it fast: **me**. What word? (“me”) Yes! **Me!***

Some teachers use a puppet to illustrate phonemic awareness. For example, Tommy Turtle crawls very slowly and talks very slowly. *When we say **dog** Tommy Turtle would say /d/ /o/ /g/. People talk more quickly. What word would we say? Yes, **dog!***

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**Sample Words: Easier to More Difficult**

| Word    | Phonemes     | Number of phonemes | Word     | Phonemes           | Number of phonemes |
|---------|--------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. at   | /a/ /t/      | 2                  | 6. wave  | /w//a//v/          | 4                  |
| 2. cat  | /k//a//t/    | 3                  | 7. slip  | /s//l//i//p/       | 4                  |
| 3. dog  | /d/ /o/ /g/  | 3                  | 8. truck | /t//r//u//k/       | 4                  |
| 4. she  | /sh/ /e/     | 2                  | 9. catch | /c/ /a/ /tch/      | 3                  |
| 5. that | /th/ /a/ /t/ | 3                  | 10. fox  | /f/ /o/ /k/<br>/s/ | 4                  |