

## Phonological Awareness: **Initial Sounds**

**Description** Children identify pictures with the same initial sound as a spoken word.

Children are given four picture cards and told the name of each picture. They say the sound and point to or say the picture that begins with the same sound. The child is also asked to produce orally the beginning sound for an orally presented word that matches one of the given pictures.

- You Need**
- ▶ Initial Sounds Picture Cards—Sheets 1 and 2
  - ▶ Phonological Awareness Assessment—Individual Record form
  - ▶ Phonological Awareness Assessment—Class Record form

**Why Use It** This assessment will tell you whether children can hear and match initial sounds in words.

- How to Use It**
- ▶ Administer this test individually.
  - ▶ Begin by showing the child four picture cards: *bear*, *hat*, *dog* and *milk*. Say the name of each picture. Then hold up the picture card for *bird*, say the name and ask the child to find the other picture card that starts with the same sound. Repeat using *horse*, *desk* and *mouse*.
  - ▶ Then say the name of four of the pictures: *bird*, *horse*, *desk* and *mouse* and ask the child to orally produce the initial sound.
  - ▶ Record the child's correct responses as well as substitutions on the Individual Record form.
  - ▶ Show the child four more picture cards: *cat*, *fan*, *ladder* and *pencil*. Say the name of each picture. Use *cake*, *fire*, *lion* and *penguin* and ask the child to find the other picture card that starts with the same sound.
  - ▶ Then say the names: *cake*, *fire*, *lion* and *penguin*. Ask the child to orally produce the initial sound.
  - ▶ Record the child's correct responses as well as substitutions on the Individual Record form.

- What to Notice**
- ▶ Number of sounds the child can correctly match
  - ▶ Whether children can orally produce the initial sound of a word they have heard