Phoneme Chains

Focus Area: Phonemic Awareness - Sound Manipulation

Timing: 5-10 minutes

Materials:
- List(s) of words with one sound change

Procedure:
- Say the first word in the chain and have students repeat the word. Then tell them to change the initial sound, and provide them with the sound you want them to use.
  - “Say ‘dog’.” “dog”
  - “Instead of /d/, say /h/.” “hog”
  - “Instead of /g/, say /p/.” “hop”
  - “Instead of /o/, say /i/.” “hip”
  - “Instead of /h/, say /s/.” “sip”
  - “Instead of /i/, say /a/.” “sap”
- Begin by changing just initial sounds, then final sounds, then medial sounds.
- When they get the hang of it, you can create a chain (as above) where you are changing all sounds in one chain.
- To make it more difficult, you can use blends and add or delete sounds (e.g., leave out the /n/ in “snack”; change the /k/ to /s/ in “clash”).
Sample Word Chains

Changing Initial Sounds
hat ➔ cat ➔ mat ➔ sat ➔ rat ➔ fat ➔ bat ➔ pat
ring ➔ sing ➔ ping ➔ ding ➔ king ➔ wing
cake ➔ rake ➔ make ➔ take ➔ fake ➔ bake ➔ lake ➔ wake
head ➔ bed ➔ red ➔ led ➔ fed ➔ shed ➔ dead
feet ➔ meet ➔ seat ➔ beat ➔ sheet ➔ heat ➔ neat

Changing Final Sounds
gate ➔ game ➔ gail ➔ gauge ➔ gain ➔ gaze ➔ gape
leak ➔ lead ➔ leap ➔ leaf ➔ league ➔ leave ➔ lean

Changing Medial Sounds
him ➔ ham ➔ hem ➔ hum
clock ➔ click ➔ clack ➔ cluck

Changing Varied Sounds
sun ➔ fun ➔ fan ➔ ran ➔ rat ➔ rot ➔ bought ➔ boss ➔ bus ➔ fuss
glass ➔ glad ➔ plaid ➔ plan ➔ pan ➔ pen ➔ pet ➔ let ➔ lot ➔ faught
shed ➔ shell ➔ bell ➔ belt ➔ melt ➔ malt ➔ salt ➔ fault ➔ felt