

# Learning together

## In the Beginning...

ACTIVITY #11

SEQUENCE: PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS —  
PRIMARY

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(Institut TA)



### Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to make your child aware that there are small meaningful units in words and that sometimes these units are at the beginning of words.



### Relevance of the activity

This skill is essential to help your child understand the meaning of words, develop their vocabulary, but also to observe that there are small units of meaning that are often used to form words.



### Supplies




- If needed, a word bank in the appendix
- Everyday objects to mime the examples of words in this activity

## IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD!

### Explain the activity:



Today, we'll focus on the beginning of words to discover small meaningful units.

### Explain why:



What do the words *impolite*, *impossible* and *imperfect* all have in common? What do they mean? How do you know? What if I say the words *dishonest*, *disobey* and *disgust*? When you take the time to think about what these words have in common, you are taking time to understand the words and how they are formed.

### Explain when:



You see, all these words have something small in common that provides clues about their meaning. This skill can help you understand the new words you are learning, make connections between them, and better understand language.

### Try it together:



Let's take a few words and see what they have in common:

- undo
- unplug
- untie
- unfold

What do they have in common?

That's right, they all start with the **un-** sound . But why are all these words structured that way?

**To help us, let's ask ourselves the following questions:**

- What is the difference between *undo* and *do*?
- Between *untie* and *tie*?
- Between *unplug* and *plug*?
- Between *unfold* and *fold*?



That means when I hear the syllable **un-** at the start of a word, it means that it is the opposite of something.

**Let's try again with other words:**

- re-read
- redo
- reuse
- reset

What do they have in common? What do they mean? Here, when I hear the syllable *re* at the beginning of the word, it means to *do it a second time*.

Now, can you tell me what the words impolite, impossible and imperfect have in common? What do they mean? How do you know? What if I say the words dishonest, disobey and disgust?



**Quick tip**

Turn learning into a game of charades! When possible, while working with the suggested words, invite your child to act them out with you.

For example:

**Fold: Fold a piece of paper together.**

**Unfold: Unfold it wide!**

For *redo* or *restart*, make a small gesture and repeat it.

These gestures bring the words to life and help your child understand their meaning while having fun!



## Word bank grouped by meaning units at the beginning of the words.

<b>un</b> (the opposite of)	<b>re</b> (do a second time)	<b>im</b> (the opposite of)	<b>dis</b> (the opposite of)
undo/do	redo/do	impossible/possible	dishonest/honest
untie/tie	re-read/read	unfair/fair	unable/able
remove/move	reuse/use	impolite/polite	disrespect/respect
unfold/fold	disobey/obey	uncertain/certain	unhappy/happy