



Teacher Tip

NONSENSE WORDS Remember, in these phonemic awareness activities, you are not teaching sound/spellings. Nonsense words help keep students' attention focused on the sounds rather than on the meanings of words. At the same time, by changing letters as you write the words, you are supporting the idea that sounds and spellings have a direct relationship.

Research in Action

Phonemic awareness is the conscious understanding that spoken words are made of individual and separable sounds—*phonemes*. It involves the ability to play with and manipulate these sounds in order to put together and take apart spoken language.

(Marsha Roit)

Phonemic Awareness

Phoneme Replacement

Initial Consonant Sounds

- ◆ Remind students that by changing just one sound, they can turn one word into another word.
- ◆ On the board, write *seem*. Then touch the word, and say it. Continue, using the following model:
 - Teacher: The first sound in *seem* is /s/. Let's change that sound to /f/. (Erase s.) What's the new word?
 - Students: Feem.
 - Teacher: (Write *f*.) Now let's change /f/ to /v/. (Erase *f*.) What's the new word?
 - Students: Veem.
- ◆ Continue, using other consonant sounds such as /n/, /p/, /g/, and /w/. Do not write the letter until after students say the new word.
- ◆ Additional words that can be used for this activity are *melt*, *fill*, *rice*, and *work*.