A FREE CSAS CLASSROOM ROUTINE

The 10-Minute Phonemic Awareness Warm-Up

Zero prep. Zero materials. Just your voice, their ears, and the tightest ten minutes of your literacy block. Run it daily, whole group, brisk pace, every student responding.

1. **Minutes 1 to 3: Blending (sounds to words).** Teacher script: "My turn: /s/ /u/ /n/... sun. Your turn: /m/ /a/ /p/." Students blend and say the whole word chorally. Word bank: map, fish, lock, jump, stripe; progress from 2 to 3 phonemes to 4 to 5 as students gain speed. Watch for: students who wait a beat and echo classmates; move them near you and check individually.

2. **Minutes 4 to 6: Segmenting (words to sounds).** Teacher script: "Break it apart: ship." Students tap one finger per sound, /sh/ /i/ /p/, then say the count: 3 sounds. Word bank: at, red, chin, stop, blend. Digraphs like sh, ch, th are ONE sound; watch for students who split them. Watch for: letter names sneaking in; this routine is ears only, sounds, not letters.

3. **Minutes 7 to 9: Manipulation (delete and substitute).** Teacher script: "Say cart. Now say it without /t/." (car) "Say map. Change /m/ to /c/." (cap) Word bank: deletion, cart to car, meat to me, snail to sail; substitution, map/cap, hit/hot, sing/ring. Watch for: this is the heaviest lift. If the group struggles, drop back to segmenting for a week and return.

4. **Minute 10: Fast finish and celebrate.** Teacher script: "Lightning round: 3 words, blend them fast, then tell your partner the trickiest sound you beat today." Ending on success builds the identity that fuels effort tomorrow: we are the kind of class that hears sounds.

MAKE IT STICK

Same order daily, so zero minutes go to directions. Keep a brisk, perky pace; this is a warm-up, not a lesson. The routine strengthens the on-ramp to reading; your foundational skills lesson carries it into print.

PLAN THE WEEK, TRACK WHO NEEDS A CLOSER LISTEN

This week's warm-up plan

CLASS

WEEK OF

Segment	This week's word bank
Blending	
Segmenting	
Manipulation	

STUDENTS TO CHECK INDIVIDUALLY (THE ECHOERS, THE DIGRAPH-SPLITTERS)

WHAT I NOTICED THIS WEEK, AND NEXT WEEK'S ADJUSTMENT

WHY TEN MINUTES MATTERS

Phonemic awareness is the strongest early predictor of reading success, and it responds fast to brief, daily, cumulative practice. Ten minutes a day, every day, beats thirty minutes once a week.

Want your whole literacy block this tight?

CSAS coaching helps the full block follow through. Free consultation:

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