

Music is the KEY to Developing Early Phonemic Awareness Skills

Brooke Loudon, BS Lauri Nelson, Ph.D.

LSL INSIGHT: USE OF
ACOUSTIC HIGHLIGHTING
CAN BE EFFECTIVE IN
SONGS

LSL INSIGHT: USE
APPROPRIATE WAIT TIME
AFTER ASKING QUESTIONS
IN SONGS

According to the National Reading Panel and Science of Reading Research, phonemic awareness is a foundational skill for developing reading and written language.

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words

Phonemic awareness skills are not easily developed through incidental learning. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing benefit from explicit phonemic awareness instruction.

How can teachers make phonemic awareness instruction meaningful and engaging for our students?

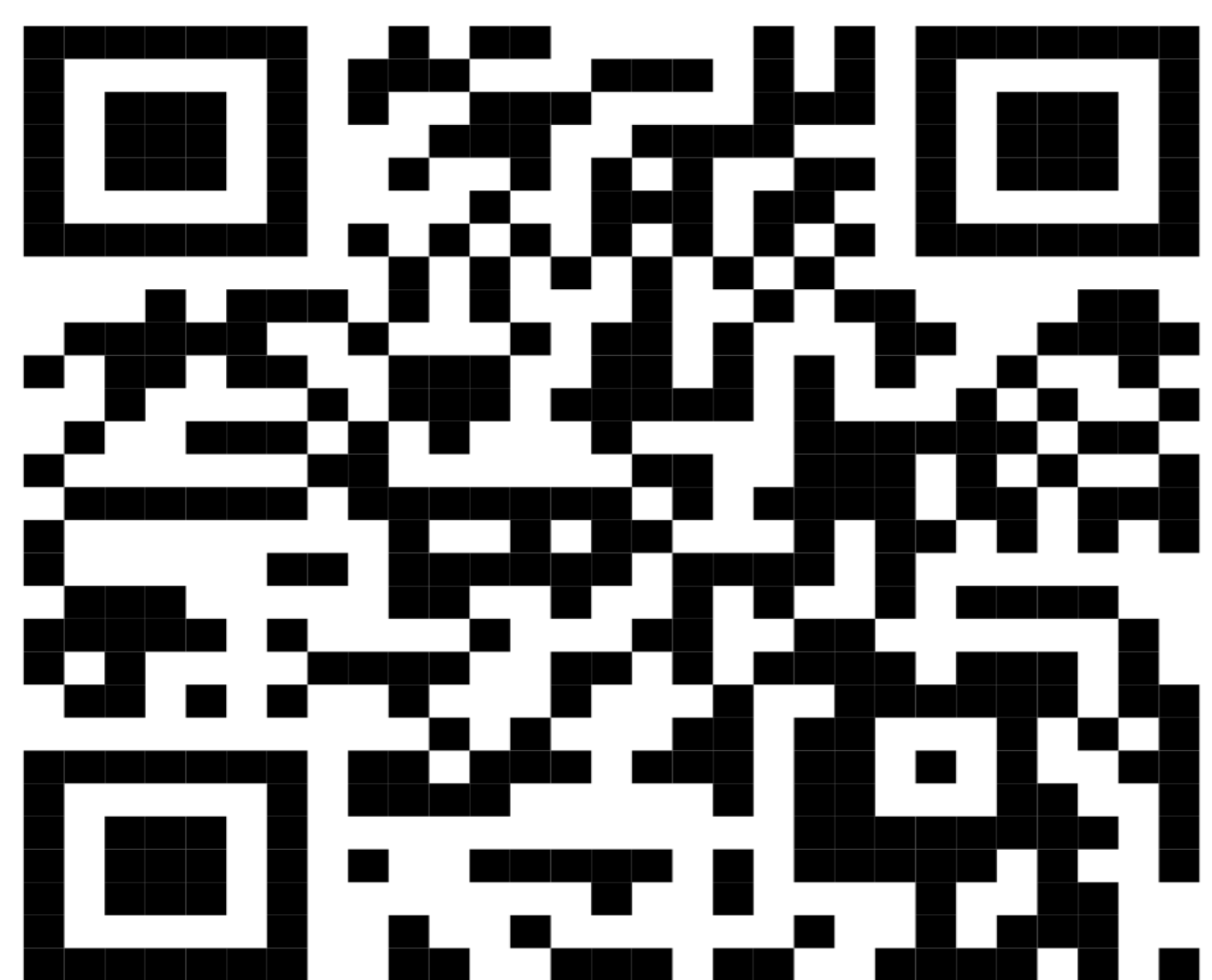
The KEY is through MUSIC!!

Music is as an evidence-based instructional tool that can promote language and literacy development in children who are DHH. The repetition of beats, rhyming, and the complexities of musical input promotes opportunities for children to listen to sounds that are different than listening in a quiet environment.

Shown below are examples of fun songs the first author uses in her classroom to promote phonemic awareness:

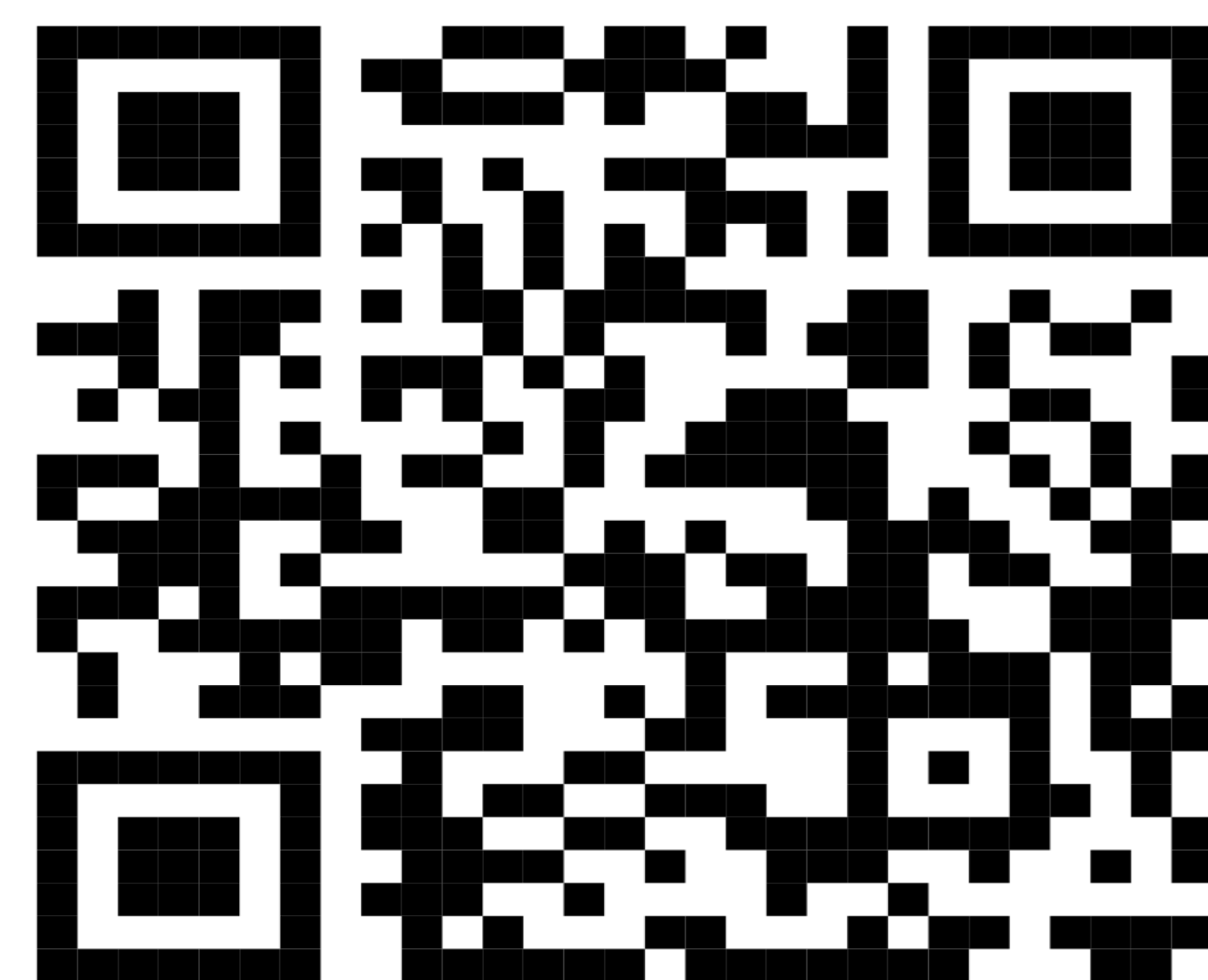
Rhyming Words

- Identify and differentiate sounds
- Introduces new vocabulary
- Memory and recall benefits
- Helps children predict words and patterns
- Enhances auditory discrimination
- Helps children connect with tradition and understand cultural literary references



Initial Phoneme Isolation

- Helps children understand how sounds form words
- Assists in decoding unfamiliar words
- Expands vocabulary
- Foundational skill for more advanced literacy concepts
- Enhances auditory discrimination



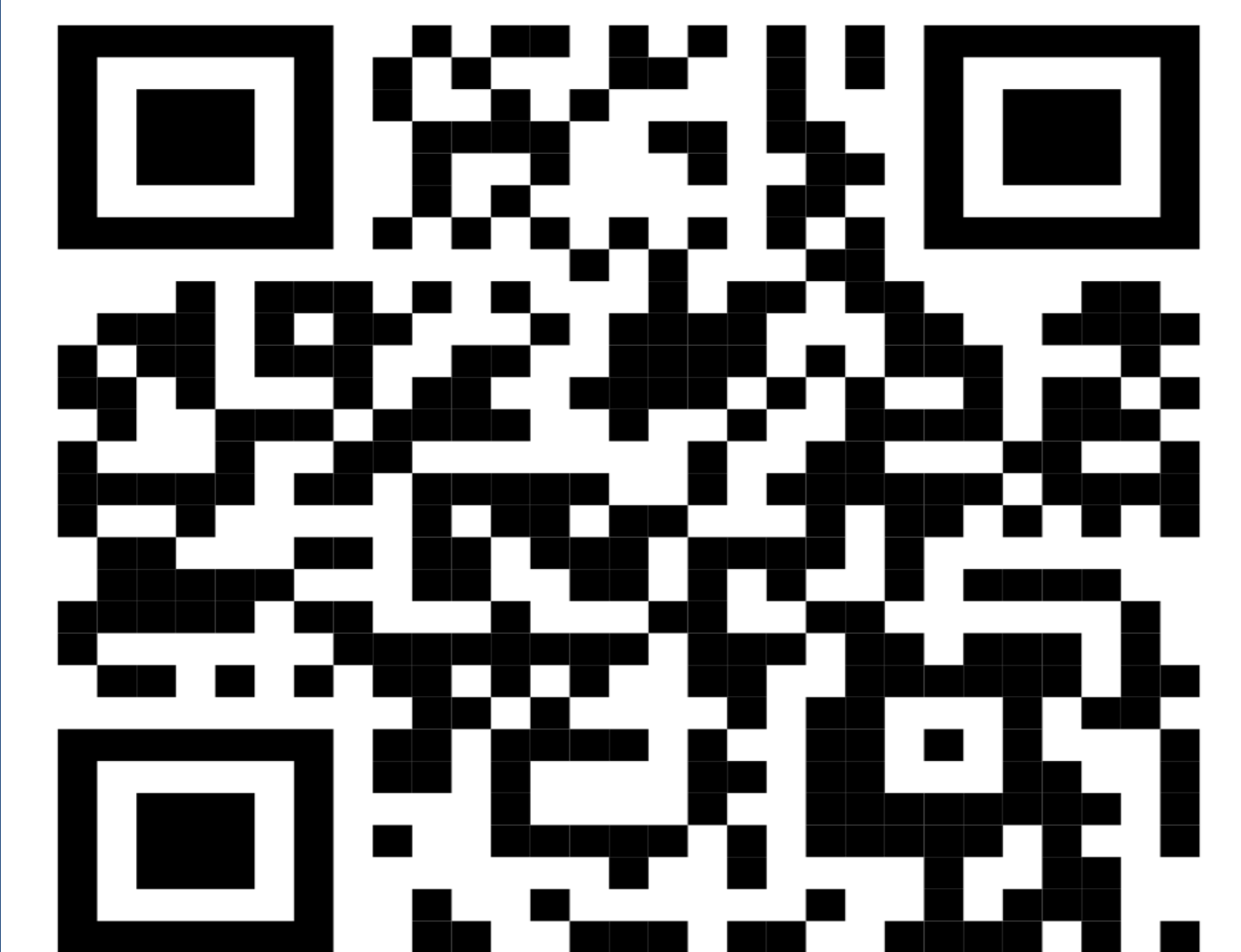
Final Phoneme Isolation

- Aids in developing decoding skills
- Related to ability to spell words correctly
- Differentiate between words that may sound similar and expand their vocabulary
- Foundational skill for more advanced literary concepts



Blending Word Parts

- Helps children decode unfamiliar and complex words
- Aids in the understanding of how sounds combine to form words
- Helps understand the structure of words
- Enhances auditory discrimination skills



Chris Barton, Initial Phoneme Song (used with permission)