



**NAVY SEALS PROTECT YOUR FREEDOM.
SEALKIDS SUPPORTS THEIR KIDS.**

SEALKIDS Announces New Partnership

We are excited to share the news that SEALKIDS has entered into a partnership with SEAL Family Foundation, Navy SEAL Foundation, and SEAL Legacy Foundation to continue to provide exceptional service to NSW families as we work to fulfill our mission.

"By working together, our four organizations will grow the impact and reach of the SEALKIDS programs over the next 12 months and potentially longer," according to Dr. Gretchen McIntosh, Executive Director of SEALKIDS. "Ultimately, the goal is to keep today's Navy SEAL in the fight," she said.

Read more [here](#).

What is Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics?



I have two children that struggled when learning to read. Phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics are terms that I have often heard from tutors, teachers, and educational psychologist over the years. I remember learning about phonics myself, but the others terms were new to me. All three terms are part of early reading but can often be confused. All three are related, but they are not the same thing.

Phonological Awareness is a skill developed through listening, not writing. A child has mastered this skill once they can hear the sounds in spoken language. One example of this is being able to tap out syllables.

Phonemic Awareness is being able to hear the smallest units of sounds in words and syllables. Two of the most important phonemic awareness skills to master are segmenting and blending. This is typically one of the last phonological skills to develop.

Phonics is instruction that teaches children to connect letters with sounds, break words

into sounds, and blend sounds into words. Phonics gives children the tools to become readers and writers.

Learning difference can come in many different forms and with the correct interventions, the child affected thrives. As I navigate through this journey of learning differences with my own children, I work to educate myself on the challenges that my children face. I am excited to share what I have learned so that others who may have a child facing challenges can take the steps to help their child thrive.

To learn more about phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, and phonics, you can read the article by Ginny Osewalt, [Phonological Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics: What you Need to Know.](#)

-Elizabeth, SEALKIDS Development Coordinator.

From a SEALKIDS Parent

"As a family whose SEAL member is currently deployed, the tutoring assistance we are receiving from SEALKIDS has resulted in decreased anxiety for myself, my husband, and our child. I am so thankful for the support. It makes us all more successful."



-SEALKIDS Parent

Change the life of a child with your monthly support...



We are looking for special people who are willing to make a monthly commitment to the children of the NSW community. Our **targeted and immediate intervention** ensures these children reach their full potential.

SEALKIDS, through its programs, supports the children of Naval Special Warfare - everyday kids living in extraordinary circumstances. This encompassing approach of academic testing, tutoring, therapy, advocacy, and enrichment fosters the success and well-being of the child, critically reducing family stresses and ultimately keeping today's Navy SEAL in the fight.

We invite you to join our Mission and Love A SEALKID this year.

The average cost to service one child for one year is \$5000.

[Choose your Monthly Donation](#)

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With in-kind support from



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