

Syllable Clapping



LEARNING DOMAIN:
Phonological Awareness

In this activity, you will help your child to identify syllables in spoken words by clapping for each syllable. Being able to hear and identify syllables will help your child learn to read and spell.

Let's Play!

Think of a simple word your child would know (for example: *apple, fork, baby*). Introduce the game to your child by saying something like: **“let’s play a word game. I am thinking of the word ‘apple’. We are going to clap the number of syllables the word ‘apple’”**

Show her how to clap one time as you say each syllable: **/ap/** (clap) **/ple/** (clap).

Now try it with words with different numbers of syllables. Examples:

- One syllable words: *fork, knife, spoon, car, straw, door*
- Two syllable words: *table, baby, cracker, napkin, pizza*
- Three syllable words: *banana, strawberry, lemonade*

Tips

- Have your child put her hand under her chin and say the word slowly so she can feel when her mouth goes down. Be sure to explain that each time her chin goes down, she’s saying another part of the same word.
- When clapping out syllables, hold your hands wide apart when you are saying the syllables. Making a “big clap” helps them to hear and see the number of syllables.
- Try to have your child clap and say the syllable at the same time.
- Don’t worry about asking your child directly how many syllables are in the word (or the number of times she clapped); this is very difficult for children to remember. Just have her focus on clapping the syllables while she says the words.

