

Learning together

Syllable Clap!

ACTIVITY #3

SEQUENCE: PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS —
PRIMARY

By the Learning Disabilities Institute
(Institut TA)



Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to help your child identify the syllables in a word when speaking and to parse words into syllables.



Relevance of the activity

Identifying and separating syllables in a word are two essential skills needed to develop reading and writing skills and help your child develop their understanding of sound units in words. It also allows them to become aware of certain conventions in written language. It is important to concentrate on oral syllables when doing these phonological awareness activities. For example, orally, the word couch has only one syllable: /couch/ and the word garage has two: /ga/rage/.



Supplies

- A box containing 5 to 7 objects representing familiar words of different lengths.



IT'S YOUR TURN TO PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD!

Explain the activity:



Today, we will learn about identifying and counting the syllables that we hear in words.

Explain why:



This will help you separate words into smaller parts, or syllables. For example, in the word "building," there are two syllables: buil/ding. In the word "chair," there is one syllable: /chair/. This will help you pronounce more difficult words better, such as "refrigerator": re/frig/er/a/tor.

Explain when:



Every time you learn a new word, you can repeat it and break it into syllables. This will help you pronounce it better and identify the small parts of words.

Try it together:



I'm going to show you how to identify and count syllables in a word.

There are several objects (rope, ball, clementine, figurine, glass, scissors, fork, etc.) in this box. I will select one: scissors. I separate the word scissors into syllables by clapping my hands.

- Scis-sors (2 claps). I clapped 2 times (scis-sors), because this word has 2 syllables.
- Ball (1 clap). I clapped 1 time (ball), because this word has 1 syllable.
- Let's try again with another object: clementine. Cle-men-tine (3 claps). I clapped 3 times because this word has 3 syllables.

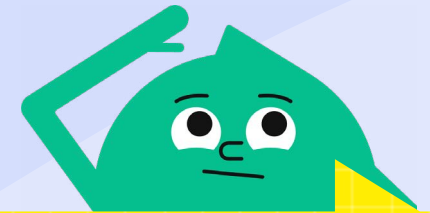
Pick one object at a time and break the word into syllables, inviting your child to participate.



You can also illustrate the number of syllables in each object by putting squares in front of them. Then the child could see that the word crayon (2 syllables, 2 squares) is shorter than the word clementine (3 syllables, 3 squares in front of the object). You can also use Lego blocks.



Source: Stanké Activity (5B)



Quick tip

Ask your child to identify the object in the box that starts with the syllable X.

You can also do the activity with first names or even picture cards from a board game or from the pages of a book.

