


Phonological Awareness

Syllables

Syllables are the '**beats**' in words. **CLAP** the beats as you say them. Help your child to learn about syllables by blending and segmenting words. Playing with syllables at home is fun, remember to help your child by showing them what to do. 

Blending is when you push the syllables (beats) together to make a word
e.g. *ca/ter/pi/llar = caterpillar, jump/er = jumper.*

Segmenting is breaking the word into beats e.g. *tomato = to/ma/to, table = ta/ble.*

Ways to play with syllables at home

Everyday routines

Cooking/ shopping: Break up words when you ask for items or ask them to try and break the word up

e.g. *"give me the to/ma/to please", "I need two a/pples" , "banana is a long word, let's clap the beats!"*



Getting dressed: Clap the beats in the clothes or colours

e.g. *"find your ye/llo w jum/per", "here are your spott/y socks", "how many beats are in jacket?"*



I spy: When you are guessing your child's word, clap the beats

e.g. *"is it la/dy/bug?", "I need a clue...what are the beats in your word?"*



Play

Book reading: Choose a word or a story character when reading, ask your child to blend the beats

e.g. *"this story is about a prin/cess", "what are the beats in caterpillar?"*



Painting/ drawing: Talk about the colours and what you/your child is drawing

e.g. *"you chose ye/llo w, I wonder what you're painting?"*



Treasure hunt: Hide toys with 2-4 syllables around a room. Put the numbers 2, 3, 4 on buckets/bags. Get your child to find the toys, and sort them by syllables.

e.g. *"you found a octopus, let's clap the beats [oc/to/pus], 3 beats, put it in the 3 bucket" or "which bucket does oc/to/pus go in?"*



FUN FACT: All languages have words made up of syllables. If you speak another language, try these activities in all the languages your child knows!