

GAMES FOR SPEECH SOUND (PHONOLOGICAL) AWARENESS

Being able to hear and play around with the sounds we use when we speak (not letter sounds) is important in a child's speech and language development, and in developing their reading and spelling skills.

Try some of these activities. Remember, we are not talking about letter sounds or names, but speech sounds (eg not 'suh' or 'es' but 'sss') and there is no need to write anything down.

Robots

This activity is about splitting words into syllables.

Pretend to be robots or make a robot out of old boxes.

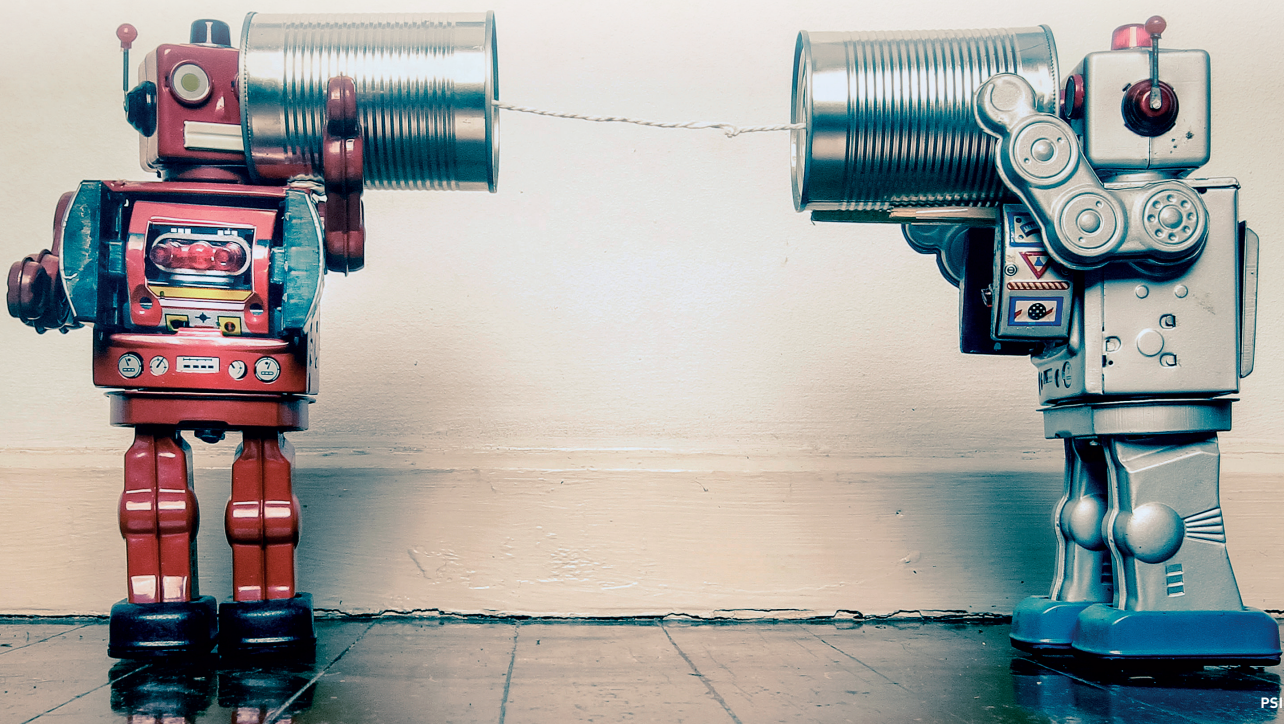
How would you (as a robot) or your box robot say different words? Robots split words into syllables: 'don-key', 'pu-ppy', 'wa-shing-hands'.

Go round the house and take it in turns to say things you see like a robot.

Look through a catalogue or picture book and say the words like a robot!

Use a selection of pictures from any game, such as a lotto, to say like a robot. (If you've made a box robot, perhaps he could have a slot to post the pictures into when you've said them).

If you're really good at this, you could try counting how many syllables the words have when you say them.



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Robber Robot

Robber Robot steals parts of your words! What's left? This is about playing around with syllables.

Start with a pile of objects, pictures or a bag of random objects. You will need to choose these words quite carefully because they will need to have two syllables or more, for example:

Teaspoon, biscuit, orange, apple, pepper, robot, robin, paper, cowboy, monkey, milkman, teacher, jelly, parcel, plimsoll, purple, doctor, curtain, elephant, butterfly, etc. (If you're not sure, say them like a robot and count how many parts you get).

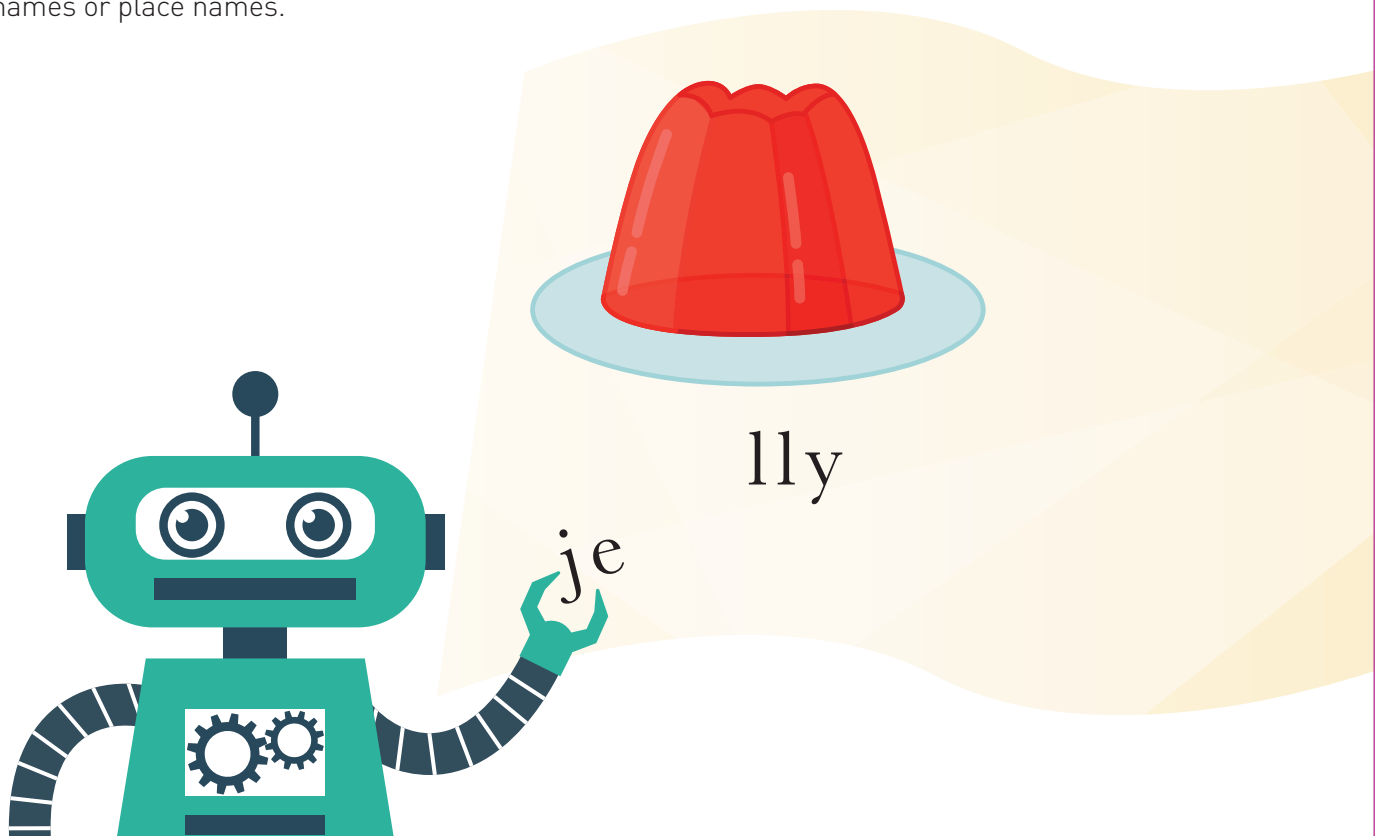
Robber Robot is going to say the words then take the first part away, for example:

“Je-lly”

Now he's taken the 'je'! What's left? ('lly'). You may need to do this together quite a few times before your child can do this on their own.

If you have pictures for this game, you could cut them in two (or three). Take away the first part of the picture as you say the first syllable of the word and leave the space for your child to say the last syllable, as you point to the second part of the picture.

Once you get the hang of this game, you could play it with family and friends' names or place names.



Treasure hunt

This activity is about listening for sounds at the beginnings of words.

Don't be afraid to help your child with the listening and thinking for this game.

Pick a sound (remember, this must be a speech sound), perhaps one you know your child is working on in their therapy, or you can just choose one, perhaps the first sound of their name.

Go on a treasure hunt around the house looking for things that begin with that sound. You will probably have to say the names of the things you find:

**‘Listen... Bubbles.
Does that begin with ‘b’?’**

You may have to help your child by repeating the word, repeating the sound at the beginning or splitting the sound from the rest of the word to help them decide:

**e.g. ‘B – b – bubbles.
Oh, yes! That is a ‘b’!’**

You could put together treasure bags or boxes for different sounds.

Look for the sound on pictures in old magazines that you can cut out to make a collage or scrapbook. You could make a page for each different sound.



I Spy (with a difference)

‘I spy, with my little eye,
something beginning with...’

Give the speech sound, **not** the letter, that the word begins with **and** describe it. This will help your child work out what it might be and learn to make the sound connections.

For example:

‘...something beginning with ‘sh’.
It lives on a farm and is woolly.’

‘...something beginning with ‘ch’.
You sit on it.’

‘...something beginning with ‘br’.
It’s for tidying your hair.’

It does not matter if your child cannot say the word correctly when they guess it. If they guess the correct word, you know they are thinking correctly about the clues you are giving them.

For older children, you could give them clues about rhyming words instead of meanings, for example:

‘...something beginning with ‘b’
and it rhymes with ‘red’.’



Rhyme

Just enjoy hearing and using rhyming words.

There are lots of books with rhymes in them to share, such as '**Commotion in the Ocean**' and '**Rumble in the Jungle**' by Giles Andreae, '**Where, Oh Where is Kipper's Bear?**' by Mick Inkpen, and Dr Seuss books.

Play around with sounds and make up lots of nonsense rhyming words or your own rhymes and songs.



cat



hat



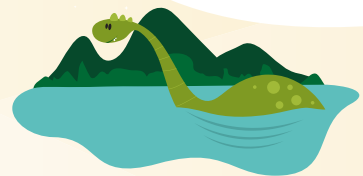
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