



AWARENESS OF SYLLABLES WITHIN WORDS

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The following ideas are to help children become more aware of speech sounds in isolation and within words. It may be that they miss out sounds at the beginning or end of words, or they may use different sounds from those that we use.

The following activities are to help the child become aware that words are made up of different segments, ie syllables, and that all these segments need to exist to make up the word.

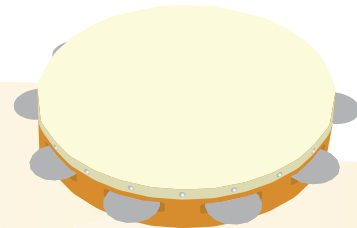
During these activities it is fine if the child wants to have a go at saying the words, but don't worry if they don't use all of the correct sounds. If you find the child has difficulty saying the word, just help them by letting them listen to you saying the word.

During the activities below, it is best to choose pictures or objects with one, two or three syllables. You can collect a range of household objects, or use pictures from books or magazines. Please note, most children do not understand the word 'syllable' so it is best to refer to syllables as 'claps', 'taps' or the 'pattern' in a word.



Clapping the number of syllables in a word.

Clap out the number of syllables and the child can copy, join in, or clap out the number of syllables themselves depending on the level they are at.



Bang out the number of syllables on a **drum** or **tambourine**.

- Once the child has practised syllable clapping, you could ask them to **sort** the objects/pictures into **piles/hoops** according to the **number of syllables** they have. For example, put all the one syllable objects or pictures together, and do the same for the two and three syllable objects/pictures.
- If the child makes mistakes with the number of syllables in a particular word, for example 'efant' for 'elephant', you can **repeat** the word back to them **properly** and **clap out** the number of syllables as you say it 'el-e-phant'.



One-syllable words



cat



hat



fox



tall



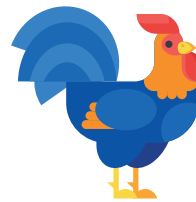
Two-syllable words



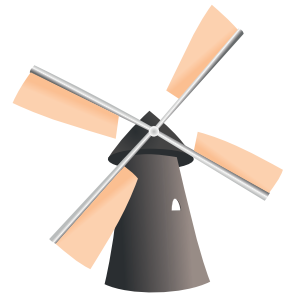
football



rocket



chicken



windmill



Three-syllable words



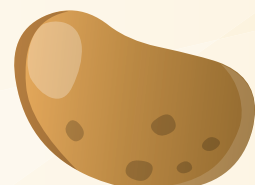
banana



basketball



telephone



potato

