

# Phonological Awareness

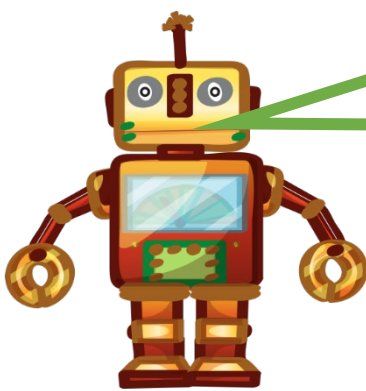
## Syllables for P1 – P4

### Making spelling and reading easier

Spelling and reading can be made easier for your child, when they can break the word into parts. These parts are called syllables. Some words have just one syllable. Many words have two syllables, but very few words have five syllables.

### How do we count syllables

The easiest way to count syllables is to pretend to be a robot.



He llo  
I am a ro bot  
My name is pe ter

If a robot were naming animals, he would say;

Cow = **cow** = one syllable

Giraffe = **gi—raffe** = two syllables

Elephant = **e—le—phant** = three syllables

Alligator = **all—i—gat—or** = four syllables

Hippopotamus = **hi—ppo—pot—a—mus** = five syllables

Another good method for teaching how to count syllables is to put your hand under your chin. Say the word and count the number of times your chin bumps, e.g. Bob = one bump of the jaw, Chris—to—pher = three bumps of the chin.

Try saying these names with you hand under your chin;

Bob = **Bob** = One syllable

Tony = **To—ny** = two syllables

Christopher = **Chris—to—pher** = three syllables

Alexander = **Al—ex—an—der** = four syllables

Alexandria = **Al—ex—an—dri—a** = five syllables.

## I Spy

Tell your child that you are going to say parts of a word and they have to listen and put the parts back together again to make a word!

For example, *"I spy with my little eye a pen - cil"*. Your child will listen and say *"pencil"*.

Now encourage your child to try to give you a word!



## Guess the picture!



Cut some pictures out of magazines or maybe print some off. Show your child these pictures and then place them face down in a mixed-up pile. Pick a picture up, making sure your child can't see the picture and say the syllables in the picture for your child. Tell your child to try to put the syllables back together to guess what your picture is.

For example, *"el.....e.....phant"...* *"elephant!"*

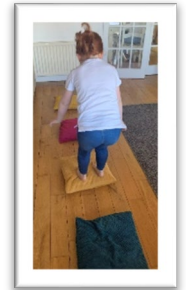
**Items needed;** old magazines.

## Syllable cushions

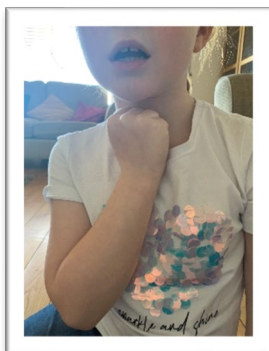
Gather some cushions with your child. Put the cushions on the floor spaced out. Tell your child to stand at the beginning of the line of cushions. Tell your child that you are going to give them a word and they are going to 'jump out the beats in the word' using the cushions as the jump markers.

For example, *"elephant"*. Your child will jump 3 cushions, *"el - e - phant"*.

**Items needed;** cushions.



## Chin bumps



Get your child to bring you some of their toy wild and zoo animals.

You are going to use chin bumps to count the syllables in each word. Curl your hand into a fist and gently tap your chin as you say each word.

For example *"Kangaroo"* you will gently tap your chin three time as you say, *"Kan - ga - roo."*

Now tell your child to have a go!

## My turn, together, your turn

Collect a variety of items, for example fruit and vegetables. You will clap the number of syllables in the words.

First name each item with the help of your child.

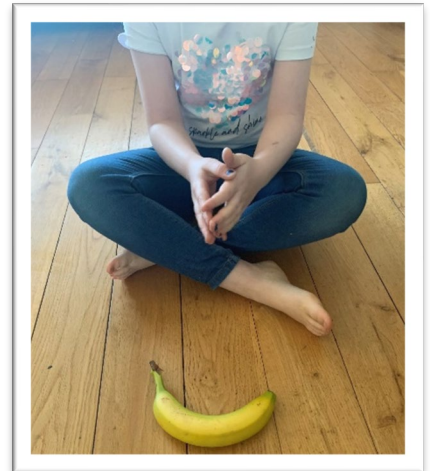
Next lift an item and say, "My turn." Now clap the syllables as you say the word, e.g. "ba - na - na".

Now encourage your child to clap along with you, as you say the word again by saying "Let's try it together. Ba - na - na"

Once you have completed this together say, "Your turn." Encourage your child to clap the syllables and say the word by initially cupping your hands around theirs.

Praise their efforts and try another item!

**Items needed;** household objects.



## Cut and stick pictures



Gather old birthday cards/ Christmas cards/ magazines/ catalogues or pictures from the internet. Use 4 blank pages as grids. Write the number 1 in the middle of the first page, 2 in the middle of the second page etc.

Cut out the pictures together and get your child to name each one and identify the number of syllables by clapping or using chin bumps. Then stick it on the appropriate numbered grid.

At the end count how many were 1 syllable words, 2 syllable words, etc.

**Items needed;** old birthday cards/ Christmas cards/ magazines/ catalogues/ pictures from the internet/ scissors/ 4 blank pages/ glue/ pen.

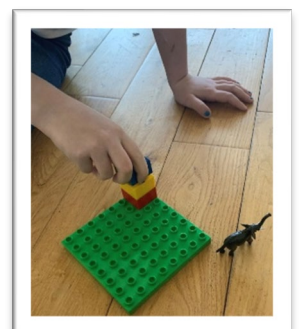
## Building Block Syllables

Tell your child you are going to say a word and you want them to build a tower to represent the number of syllables.

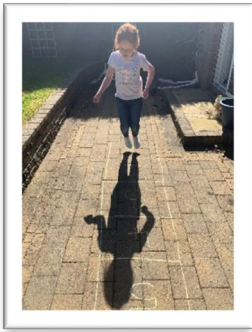
For example, if you called out 'jumper' your child would build a tower with 2 blocks - jump - er.

If you called out 'rhinoceros' your child would build a tower with 4 blocks - rhi - nos - er - us (sounded out).

**Items needed;** building blocks.



## Number Ladder Syllables



Draw a number ladder 1 – 5, outside on a path and within your garden.

Now tell your child you will call out a word and they must hop along to represent each syllable in the word.

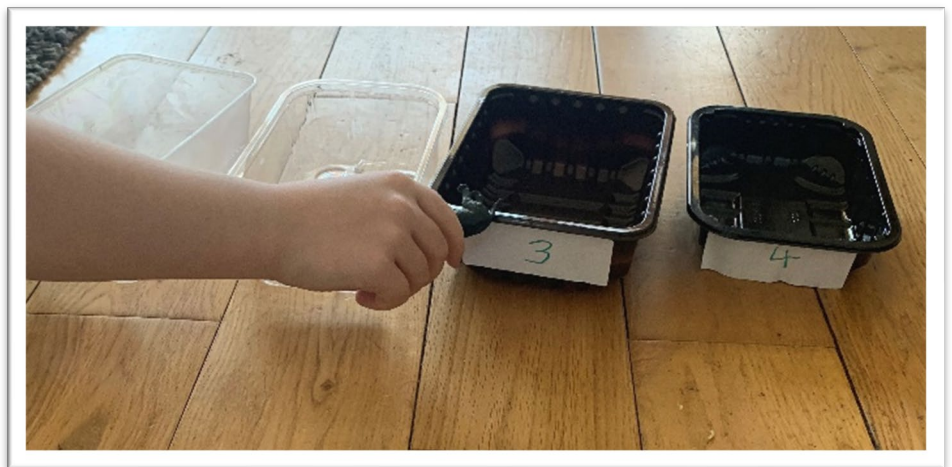
Call out a list of words. You can use the following categories to help you: food, fruit, vegetables, wild animals, farm animals, sea creatures, forest animals, mini-beasts/insects, clothes, toys, furniture etc.

**Items needed;** chalk.

## Syllable boxes

Collect some small toys or items from around the home and 4 small boxes which have 1, 2, 3 and 4 written on the front of each box.

Ask your child to choose a toy and 'tap' the top of each syllable box moving from 1 onwards until they have reached the end of the word.



For example, elephant has 3 syllables, el - e - phant. Your child should tap on the top of box one and say "el", then tap on the top of box two and say "e" and then tap on the top of box three and say "phant". Your child will then put the elephant in box three as it has three syllables.

**Items needed;** toys or objects and 4 boxes labelled 1 to 4.