



Teacher Tips

Weekly Work

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Why is awareness of syllables important? Students need to be aware of syllables as this skill is an important step for developing a useful awareness of phonemes (the smallest units of sound in a language). Understanding syllables and learning to segment words not only helps children master phonics, but these skills also play a vital role in learning to spell, read and pronounce words correctly.

The existence and the nature of syllables is introduced to students by having them clap and count the pulses in their own names. This challenge is then extended to a variety of different words which strengthens and enriches their concept of the syllable, for example broccoli becomes broc-co-li.

Students often enjoy the game of separating a word into syllables. Have students clap the syllables in words that are familiar to them: family members' names, household items, favourite toys etc. Start with simple one or two syllable words and as they become more confident branch out.

Awareness of Syllables

We have been working with students to have them recognize that sentences are made up of words. Once students become comfortable with this idea, the next step is to introduce the concept that words, themselves, are made up of strings of still smaller units of speech—syllables.

Activities

Counting Syllables Memory Match Up

Materials: Syllable picture cards (attached to this packet)

How to Play: Lay out the syllable picture cards face down. Have your child choose two and flip them over. They will say the word for each picture and clap the syllables as they say it. If the number of syllables match they can keep the cards and take another turn. If they do not match they turn them back over and the next player goes. Play continues until all of the cards have been matched. The player with the most matches wins.

OH NO! A Pass the Can Game

Materials: Syllable picture cards, a few "OH NO!" cards, a can or container that is not see through.

How to Play: Place the syllable picture cards in a can or container and mix in a few "OH NO!" cards. Have your child pick a card from the can. They name the picture on the card and count the syllables, if they get it correct they can keep the card. They then pass the can/container to the next player. Play continues until a player gets an "OH NO!" card. Then everyone counts their cards. The player with the most cards wins.

Connections

This week's edition of Teacher Tips highlights outcomes for:

Reading and Viewing—Understand basic concepts of print including directionality, word space, letter and sound.

Writing and Representing— Understand that print carries a message; take risks with temporary spelling as a strategy for getting ideas on paper.

B.I.B. Friday Counting Syllables Cut and Paste

Have your child cut out all of the picture cards at the bottom of the attached worksheet called: Counting Syllables. As they pick up a picture have them say the name of the picture and clap the syllables. They will then glue the picture in the column with the correct number. Please complete this over the course of the week and return it to school on Friday.