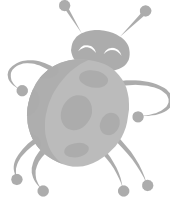


Playing with Syllables



La-dy-bug

In order to be good readers and spellers, children must learn that words are made up of small sounds (e.g. bat = b-a-t). In order to get to this level, however, children must first be able to hear bigger '**chunks**' in words (e.g., baseball = base-ball, butterfly = bu-tter-fly).

Try the following with your child...

- While bathing your children, talk to them about the objects around them: "Bubbles! Let's clap out the parts in bubbles – bub-bles" or "Water! Wa-ter"
- At dinner, look at what is on the table and hold out fingers for each part heard in the different words (e.g., 3 fingers for po-ta-toe)
- When getting dressed in the morning, jump once for each part in the clothing words you select (e.g. pants – 1 jump, swea-ter – 2 jumps)
- Use the stairs as you walk up or down to count out syllables
- When driving the car, clap out the parts in the words for things you see (e.g. 3 claps for Mac-Don-alds)
- Tap syllables up your arm from your wrist to the shoulder

While reading with your child you may say...

- "Elephant, that is a big word, let's see how many claps/parts that word has. El-e-phant. That word had 3 parts to it."