

Talking Matters

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Helping your child to reach their potential



Goal: Hearing syllables in words

To develop the ability to identify syllables in words

The ability to break a word in to syllables enables a reader/speller to break bigger, unfamiliar words into smaller more manageable chunks. It is a phonological awareness skill that is expected to be present when children commence formal schooling. Research has convincingly demonstrated that phonological awareness is a powerful predictor of reading and spelling success in the early school years (Torgesen, Wagner, & Rashotte, 1994)

The following games will assist in developing skills in segmenting words into syllables:

1. **Make a word**

Write words with 2 syllables onto cards and cut them up into syllables. Place the cut up cards into a pack which is placed face down on the table. Players take turns to draw a syllable card from the pack. When they can make a word with the cards, this is placed face up on the table. When all the cards have been used, the player with the most words is the winner.

2. **Feely Bag**

Place a range of items (or pictures) or words with varying amounts of syllables into a bag. Have the child pull out one item at a time and either clap out, or tap out on the drums the number of syllables in the word.

3. **Clapping out words**

Clap out the names of people and items you can see around the room, words from a story book or words from flash cards.



4. **Syllable Lotto**

Make a set of Lotto cards each with six or eight different pictures of common objects whose names have one, two or three syllables. Make a pack of 24-36 cards with the numbers 1, 2 or 3. Provide each pupil with one Lotto card and six or eight counters or blank cards which can be used to cover their pictures. Read the number cards and if a pupil has a picture on his/her Lotto board with the same number of syllables, she/he can cover it with a counter or blank card. The winner is the first to cover all the pictures on their Lotto board.

5. **Happy Families**

Make a pack of picture cards consisting of cards which have one, two, three or four syllables. Shuffle the cards and deal out seven cards to each player placing the rest of the pack face down on the table. Players attempt to make a 'set' of four cards with the same number of syllables. The first player asks any other player for a picture which has the same number of syllables as one of their cards. The player continues to ask any player for cards until a player cannot provide such a card. The player then takes a card from the pack on the table and discards one from their hand. The turn then passes to the player on the right. As each player collects complete 'set' of four cards they are placed face down on the table in front of them. The player with the most 'sets' at the end of the game is the winner.

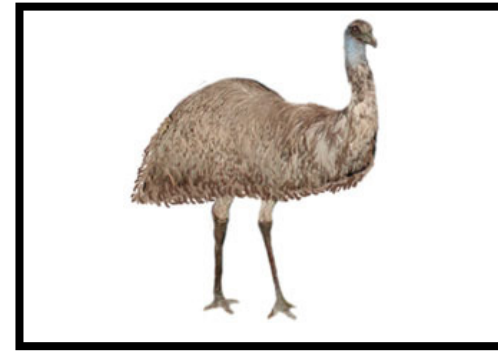
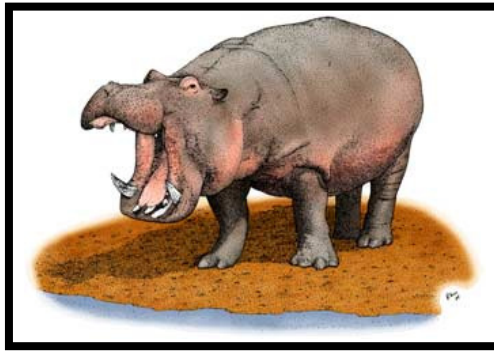
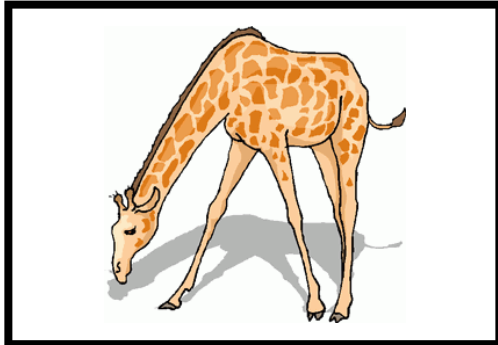
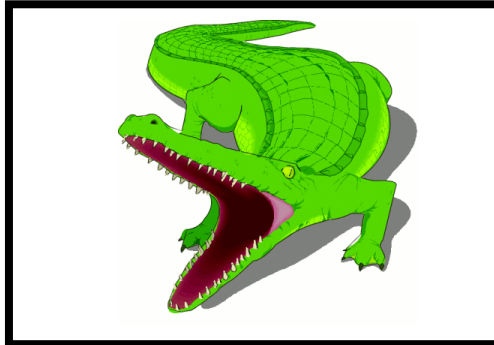
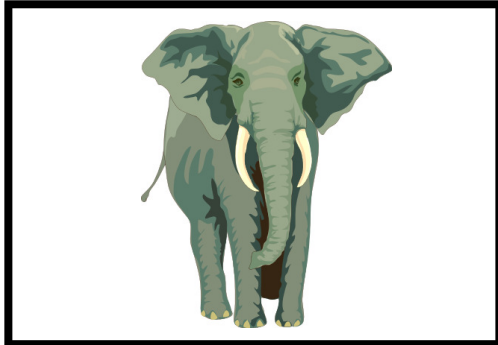
Counting the beats in words



Count the beats as you say the words



Counting the beats in words



Counting the beats in words

