

## Learning Center Activity – Sort Those Syllables

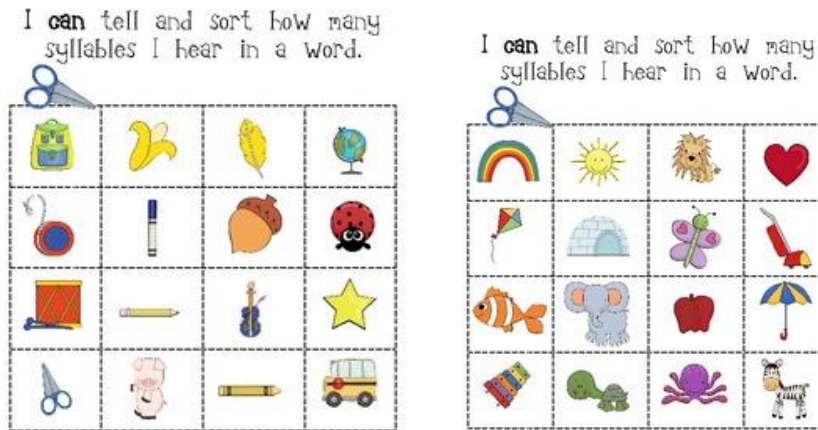
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### a. Introduction

- Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in spoken words and the understanding that spoken words and syllables are made up of sequences of speech sounds (Yopp, 1992)
- Spoken words and syllables are made up of sequences of speech sounds. In order for students to understand this concept, I have chosen an activity that will help them develop their understanding of syllabic segmentation.

### b. Body

- The activity I chose as one of my learning centers was *Sort those Syllables*. Students will sort picture cards that have 1, 2, 3, or 4 syllables by placing them in the corresponding bucket. In order for students to determine the number of syllables they will place their fist about half an inch under their chin. When their mouth opens and jaw drops with each syllable in the word it will tap their fist which will indicate the number of syllables in the word. For example, if the word is dog their jaw will only touch their fist once, indicating that the word only has one syllable. With their other hand, they will keep track of the number of times their chin touched their fist.



Picture source (Marker, 2017)



### c. Conclusion

- Answer the question "So What?"

Phonemic awareness is important because in order for a student to be a successful reader, they have to master and build a strong foundation in phonological awareness. Some key components of phonemic awareness are syllables. When students can successfully chunk words into syllables they will more than likely be able to decode and spell words in the future. Students who know how to decode syllables become fluent readers and therefore are able to understand what they read.

- Synthesize, don't summarize

As I mentioned previously learning about syllables is an important component of phonemic awareness. It helps students gain confidence as they read when they are able to distinguish the smaller sounds that make up words. This activity will help students break down words in order for them to read and spell them easily. This also helps with accurate pronunciation of words they come across while they read. For example, if a student comes across the word family they will chunk sounds together to sound out the word and then say it all at once.

- Redirect your readers

This activity teaches students how to determine the number of syllables in a word. However, it can be extremely helpful for students who miss out syllables in words when they speak. For example, when students say “amnals” instead of animals. (Coleman, 2016) It can also be useful for students whose speech is unclear, along with those who struggle with literacy. Having their fist directly beneath their chin is extremely helpful for students who find it hard to know how many claps they do to determine syllables. This is because their chin is touching their fist every time a syllable pops up and their other hand is keeping count of the number of times their fist and chin meet.

- Create a new meaning

The point of refining phonemic awareness through syllables is that students who are able to chunk words into syllables are later on able to read longer words more quickly, accurately, and fluently. It also helps students who are beginning to spell do better when they break down words into pieces. When students master and refine their phonemic and phonological awareness skills, they are prepared to successfully develop their phonics skills.

#### d. References

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