

Syllable Drumming

Phonological Awareness • Counting Syllables in Words

See our video demonstrating this activity at bipl.link/phonofun

You will need:

- Attached Drum Pad printout (or draw your own)
- Something to “drum” with: e.g. two drum sticks, chopsticks, markers, or rulers

1. **Demonstrate:** “A syllable is like a beat in a word, meaning we can drum syllables out like drummers! The word ‘kitty’ has two beats, so you can hit two times, kit-ty.” Show hitting the paper on the number 1 and 2 circles. “I landed on the second circle, so it has 2 syllables!”

Show more with these words, having your child repeat each word to feel the syllables: “pickle” (2), “elephant” (3), “sandwich” (2), “dog” (1) (the 1-syllable ones can be tricky!)

2. **Try it out together** with the following words. Demonstrate first, then ask “can you drum that word?” and have your child repeat the word and drum in the circle after you. Do 8-10 words together (you first, then our child) so the concept is solid.

Here are some words: “baby” (2), “playground” (2), “bicycle” (3), “hamster” (2), “cloud” (1), “welcome” (2), “pup” (1), “bedroom” (2), “teenager” (3), “clap” (1), “avocado” (4), “television” (4), “buffalo” (3), “alligator” (4), “cauliflower” (4)

“Wow we’re becoming drummers! What words can you think up that we could drum?”

3. **Practice together:** Come up with words together that your child can drum. It could be things they see in the room, like table, chair, carpet, doll, cabinet, puzzle, dinosaur, etc.

Extra Syllable Scavenger Hunt: Ask your child if they can find something around them (at home, in the car, or on a walk) with 2 syllables, (e.g table, pencil); 1 syllable? 3 syllables? Count on fingers to double check!

Extra Syllable Count: Next time you’re playing Legos or stuffies, or have carrots on a plate, (or anything that could be an object you can count with), try picking a Lego for each syllable, pulling them down from a pile from left to right as you say each syllable.

