



Learn the Tip

1. **Hear a word:** Pick a word you and your child have heard recently. Start with a smaller word that has only 1 or 2 beats or syllables like *bubble*.
2. **Say the word:** Ask your child to say the word.
3. **Hear and feel the syllables in the word to count them:** Help your child feel the beats in the word by doing something with their body. They can clap, stomp, or snap out the beats as they break the word into syllables. Count the syllables as you feel them together.

Why this tip?

A syllable is a beat in a word. A child's ability to break apart a word into its syllables, or beats, helps them notice the sounds in words. Later they will be able to hear and identify the sounds when they are ready to start reading and writing.



Ask Your Child

- Can you clap/snap/stomp out the syllables?
- How many syllables did you hear in the word?
- Can you listen very closely for the beats in the word?
- Use your feet. Show me how many syllables you hear in this word.
- How many syllables does your name have?



Playfully Practice

Make this a very active reading tip! If your child has a lot of energy, they may like to jump up and down for each beat in the word. Want to make it even more fun? Count the syllables by jumping rope, using a hula hoop or throwing a ball against the wall. Try tossing a ball back and forth. For example, choose the word *banana*. Toss the ball to your child and say "banana." Your child throws it back and says "ba." Then you throw it back and say "na." Your child tosses it back and says "na!" Take turns picking the word.

