

The SYLLABLE TRICK

Objective

- To develop children's phonemic awareness of parts of words by segmenting them into syllables as an aid to reading and spelling.

The TRICK

- Call for complete silence, all ears listening and hands ready to clap. Ask the children to tell you which word is longer: **Sammy** or **Snake**? Help them to discover how many parts (or syllables) each word has by clapping them.
- Explain that clapping is going to be their own special 'trick' for breaking down lots of words into syllables.
- Practise the same pattern of clapping with Dippy Duck, then Talking Tess. Explore the number of syllables in a few of the children's own names. Help them to decide each time, one syllable or two? Or more? Whose is the longest? How many syllables does it have?
- Why do we call this activity Sammy Snake's Syllable Game? Because **syllable** is one of Sammy Snake's favourite English words!

Make this a regular, but brief, fun activity 1) when studying a new Letterlander, and 2) whenever you introduce a new important word, or a long one crops up in a topic, eg. al-li-ga-tor.

Here are some other useful words you could work with:

- hat, acrobat
- butter, butterfly
- cat, caterpillar
- dinner, dinosaur
- egg, elephant
- fish, finish
- green, grapes
- hen, helicopter
- in, insect, invention
- jacket, racket
- king, kangaroo
- lamp, lighthouse, Letterland

and so on.

Longer words:

- aquarium
- celebrating, conversation, congratulations
- dictionary, differences
- hippopotamus
- identify, invitation
- magnificent
- necessary



hat



a- cro- bat



hip- po- pot- a- mus