

Phonological Awareness: Syllables Routines

Use these routines to engage children in playful activities in which they practice manipulating syllables.

Routine 1: Removing Initial Syllables

- Tell children that they will play a game in which they take away the first syllable in a word.
- Say *backpack* and have children repeat the word.
- Ask children to say each syllable in *backpack*: *back*, *pack*.
- Guide children to take away the initial syllable.
Say: *Take away the first syllable from backpack. What word is left?* (pack)
- Use the following words with this routine to provide on-going practice:
bullfrog (frog); *hiccup* (cup); *bath tub* (tub); *upset* (set); *eggshell* (shell);
rabbit (bit); *cabin* (bin); *inside* (side).

Routine 2: Removing Final Syllables

- Tell children that they will play a game in which they take away the last syllable in a word.
- Say *backpack* and have children repeat the word.
- Ask children to say each syllable in *backpack*: *back*, *pack*.
- Guide children to take away the final syllable.
Say: *Take away the last syllable from backpack. What word is left?* (back)
- Use the following words with this routine to provide on-going practice:
pencil (pen); *napkin* (nap); *snowstorm* (snow); *sandwich* (sand); *insect* (in);
picnic (pic); *attic* (at).

Routine 3: Adding Syllables

- Tell children that they will play a game in which they add a syllable to a word.
- Say *back* and have children repeat the word.
- Guide children to add a syllable to the word. Say: *Now say back and add pack to the end of the word. What is the new word?* (backpack)
- Use the following words with this routine to provide on-going practice:
cross + *walk* (crosswalk); *mag* + *net* (magnet); *con* + *test* (contest);
bed + *room* (bedroom); *out* + *side* (outside); *plas* + *tic* (plastic); *bas* + *ket* (basket).

Routine 4: Changing Syllables

- Tell children that they will play a game in which they change a syllable in a word.
- Say *backpack* and have children repeat the word.
- Ask children to say each syllable in *backpack*: *back*, *pack*.
- Guide children to change a syllable in the word.
Say: *Change pack to yard. What is the new word?* (backyard)
- Use the following words with this routine to provide on-going practice:

bookstore: change *store* to *worm* (bookworm)

airport: change *port* to *plane* (airplane)

baseball: change *base* to *foot* (football)

rocket: change *rock* to *lock* (locket)

unless: change *less* to *til* (until)

cabin: change *cab* to *rob* (robin)

daylight: change *day* to *night* (nightlight)

snowball: change *ball* to *man* (snowman)

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