

Appendix D7

Cutting up Syllables

To make your child aware of parts of words and how syllables fit together, try this fun activity!

1. Start with the names of your child and people in your family. Write down these known names on strips of thick paper or index cards.
2. Let's say your child's name is Rebecca. Together, say her name out loud and clap at the same time the three syllables: Re – becc – a. Do this a few times.
3. Have your child look at his/her name on the paper strip while clapping out the syllables and saying his/her name out loud.
4. Now ask your child to cut the strip of paper into the syllable parts. So, for example, with the name Rebecca, you will have three parts: Re – becc – a.
5. Do the same with other known names in your family. Here are some other examples: Jon – a – than; Des – ti – ny; Hann – ah; Ro – bert – o; etc.
6. Have your child mix up all the syllable chunks and then put them back together.
7. Once your child is secure with the syllables together and apart, have him or her mix up the syllables of all the names to come up with "nonsense" names, such as "Jon – bert – ah" or "becc – o – Des – ny." The goal is to make new words with several known syllables.
8. Modify this activity by using words with several syllables that your child can read on his/her own. For example, you might notice your child can read the words "important," "because," "several," and "institution." There are a lot of syllables your child can take apart and put back together in new ways! By paying attention to these parts, your child can use these known syllables to read new longer words.