

Syllable Segmentation - Instructions for Offline Use



Syllable Segmentation is a hands-on, offline activity designed to strengthen children's phonological awareness by helping them break words into syllables through visual and tactile interaction. To begin, the teacher or speech-language pathologist (SLP) places a printed **Syllable Segmentation**Mat in front of the child. Three picture flashcards, selected from the provided **Flashcard Set**, are placed at the top of the mat. The adult clearly pronounces each word, prompting the child to repeat it. The child then claps out the syllables (for example, "pop-corn" has two claps) and places one clapping chip (or token) into each rectangle box under the corresponding picture—one chip for each syllable heard. Afterward, the child is encouraged to say the word again, count the chips, and exaggerate the segmentation using the chips as a guide. If the child segments the word correctly, they keep the chips, which can later be exchanged for tokens. These tokens can be traded for tangible rewards or other privileges, adding motivation and excitement to the learning process. The game can be adapted for varying skill levels by choosing words with more or fewer syllables and can be made even more engaging by using small real-life objects instead of flashcards. This activity is ideal for individual practice, small group instruction, speech therapy sessions, or use in classroom literacy centers.