

If you have been following the *Dyslexikit* series with us, your child should know by now that vowels are important because they are in almost all English words. Your child also knows that all words have beats called syllables. There is a connection between vowels and syllables, and we are going to help your child discover that connection here.

You will need a highlighter pen for this activity as well as a pencil and the worksheet opposite.

- 1** Photocopy the worksheet and fold it in half down the middle so that your child sees only the words and their boxes. These are on the left hand side of the worksheet.
- 2** Read the words to your child. Point to them as you go.
- 3** Tell your child to highlight every vowel that he can see in all the words. Tell him to count the vowels in each word and write the number in each box.
- 4** Now turn the sheet over so your child can only see the pictures and their boxes. Tell your child to say all the words for the pictures. Remember, he should say chicken, not hen; hippotamus, not hippo; alligator, not crocodile.
- 5** He should now count the syllables or beats in each word and write the numbers in each box.  
Now, here's the magic moment.....
- 6** Open out the sheet and ask your child to tell you what he notices. He should see that the number of vowels in each word corresponds to the number of syllables.
- 7** Teach your child that every syllable must have a vowel sound. Therefore, every syllable must have at least one vowel. This is precisely what he has just magically discovered for himself.

**Review**

Ask your child:	Your child should say:
What are the five vowels?	- a, e, i, o, u
What is a syllable?	- a beat in a word.
What must every syllable have?	- a vowel sound with at least one vowel.

Ask your child again tomorrow.

Count the vowels

elephant  vowels

chicken  vowels

dragon  vowels

hippopotamus  vowels

alligator  vowels

octopus  vowels

fish  vowels

Fold here

Count the syllables


  syllables


  syllables

  syllables

  syllables

  syllables

  syllables

  syllables