

Clap a Friend's Name

Primary Objectives

15c. Notices and discriminates discrete units of sound

Why It's Important

Your child may enjoy hearing his name in a song and playing with the sounds of language. Songs, poems, and fingerplays that invite your child to play with the sounds in his name help him to become aware of the sounds and syllables that make up words.

Materials

None

What You Do

1. Introduce the following song to your child. Invite him to sing along as he learns the words. Use the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." *Clap a friend's name with me, name with me, name with me. Clap a friend's name with me. Let's try Shirley. Shir-ley!*
2. Clap as you sing each syllable of the name. Repeat the song, substituting your child's name. Invite him to clap the syllables with you.
3. Ask your child whose name he would like to sing and clap next. Continue the activity for as long as he is interested. Invite your child to think of new ways to accentuate the syllables, such as stomping or jumping.
4. You can use this activity throughout the day by clapping the syllables of your child's name when you call his name.