

## Developing Phonemic Awareness Skills to Support Reading & Writing

### Activity #1: Sound Blending

In order to be a good **reader**, learners must develop the skill of **phoneme blending** which allows them to hear sounds and then blend those sounds together to form words. The word list below has 2, 3 & 4 sound words.

**Instructions:** "I am going to say a word in slow motion. You squish the sounds together to tell me the word that I said."  
Adult taps the sound boxes below as each they say each sound.

### Activity #2: Sound Segmenting

In order to be a **good speller**, learners must develop the skill of **sound segmenting** which allows them to "chop" up a word into its individual sounds. Use the word list below, along with the sound boxes attached to support this.

**Instructions:** "Tell me all of the sounds that you hear in this word..." Child taps each box for each SOUND heard.  
Learner taps each sound box as they say the sounds in the word. Cover up the words in the list.

### Tips & Tricks

- These activities are meant to be working on **SOUNDS**. Avoid talking about letter names.
- Once your learner is skilled with identifying the **LETTERS** connected to those **SOUNDS**, you can ask the learner to read the 2, 3 & 4 sound words, but emphasize the value of sound blending to read. The task can then be changed so that you can ask the learner to spell the words, but it is critical that the learner **ALWAYS** segments the sounds in the words **BEFORE** they write the letters that match those SOUNDS.
- Vowels are challenging for learners when first learning. It is difficult for them to hear the difference between the vowels. Always start with short vowels as they are easier to work on phonemic awareness and then read & spell.

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#### 2 Sound Word list (easiest)

ad	it	on
at	is	off
am	in	odd
an	if	oz
ax	ill	up

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#### 3 Sound Word list (harder)

bad	log	pit	let	cup
cat	pod	did	red	but
gas	top	fin	ten	sun
mat	mop	him	yes	tug
sad	cob	sip	bet	fun
ham	pot	sit	get	rub

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#### 4 Sound Word list (hardest)

skip	flip	crab
stop	slap	frog
spin	slug	grass
spot	plot	brat
smell	clip	grab
sniff	glass	crib
swim	clap	press

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**Elkonin Boxes to Support Reading & Writing**

Use the boxes below to support tapping out the sounds and then spelling the 2, 3, and 4 sound words listed. After spelling these words, you may use these words to ask the learner to blend and read the words. You may also use these sound boxes to help spell other 2-4 sound words. Remember that these are sound boxes; therefore, one sound may sometimes have two letters (e.g., f-i-sh, th-i-s). The sound wall picture cards can be used when spelling to support the identification of the short vowels.

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