Oral Blending and Segmentation Activities

These activities can support you as you teach children to string together sounds to make words and to break a word into its separate sounds.

Activity 1: Sound It Out!

Write the song "Sound It Out!" on chart paper. Sing the song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It." At the end of the song, say a word in parts for children to orally blend. For example, /s/ /a/ /t/.

Sound It Out!

If you have a new word, sound it out!

If you have a new word, sound it out!

If you have a new word,

Then slowly say that word.

If you have a new word, sound it out!

Activity 2: Play Blend Baseball.

Divide the class into two teams. Say aloud a word in parts (syllable by syllable, onset/rime, or phoneme by phoneme). For example, say "/s/ /a/ /t/." If the child that is "up at bat" can blend the word, he or she advances to first base. The next batter comes up, and the game continues just like baseball.

Activity 3: Play *I Spy*.

Play a new variation to a favorite children's game. Play *I Spy* by sounding out the name of the object you are looking at. Children have to blend the sounds together to determine the object.

I spy something that is round.
I spy a /b/ /a/ /l/ (ball).

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Activity 4: Graph It!

Display picture cards of the following: *bee, tie, sun, mop, fan, leaf, glass,* and *nest.* Have children sort the cards according to the number of sounds each picture name contains. Then create a graph using the cards.

Activity 5: Say the Segmentation Cheer.

Write the "Segmentation Cheer" on chart paper, and teach it to children. Each time you say the cheer, change the words in the third line. Have children segment the word sound by sound. Begin with words that have three phonemes, such as *ten, rat, cat, dog, soap, read,* and *fish.*

Segmentation Cheer
Listen to my cheer.
Then shout the sounds you hear.
Sun! Sun! Sun!
Let's take apart the word *sun.*

Give me the beginning sound. (*Children respond with /s/.*)
Give me the middle sound. (*Children respond with /u/.*)
Give me the ending sound. (*Children respond with /n/.*)

That's right!
/s/ /u/ /n/—Sun! Sun! Sun!

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