

5 Minute Phonics Activities for Blending

Activities that don't need any special resources

- Simon Says

Instead of saying the action word, sound it out for your child to blend, e.g. 'Simon says j-u-m-p' or 'Simon says h-o-p'.

- I spy

Rather than using initial sounds, segment the name of the item, e.g. 'I spy with my little eye a... ch-air.' If you have the space, you could include an active element and ask your child to run and touch the item – we find this motivates them in the classroom!

- Treasure Hunt

Sound out the name of 2 or 3 items and ask your child to find them, e.g. 'find a l-ee-f and a s-t-i-ck'. Start with just one item at a time if your child is not yet confident with blending.

- Instructions

As part of daily activities, give the final word of an instruction sentence in sound talk for your child to blend, e.g. 'get your c-oa-t' or 'pass the c-u-p'.

- Characters

When playing with your child, use little bits of sound talk in the game. If your child is a superhero fan, you could ask them about 'b-a-t man' or 'h-u-l-k'. PJ Mask fans could blend 'g-e-ck-o' and 'c-a-t boy'. Your child's interests and familiarity with the characters will support their phonics practise. If you have pictures or toys of the characters, you could use them in the I-spy or treasure hunt games above.

Activities with picture cards

- Splat!

Have 3 or 4 picture cards in front of your child. Sound out the name of one of your items and ask your child to 'splat' the matching picture. Make sure they also say the blended word. See how quickly they can blend and 'splat' the whole set. You could increase the number of pictures to 6 once they are confident with the game.

- Reading

Have 3 picture cards in a row. Have the names of the items written on separate pieces of paper. One word at a time, add sound buttons with your child then read the word and match to the correct picture.

- Bingo (needs 2 players and an adult to lead)

Give each player 3-4 cards, make sure they know what the pictures are. Sound out the name of one the items and if a player spots it in their set they can say the word with sounds blended together and then cover it with a counter. First to cover all their items wins.