

Helping Your Child Blend Sounds into Words

Key points

- Phonics is the method schools use to teach children how to read by linking sounds to letters.
- Blending is the skill of pushing individual sounds together, like c-a-t, to hear the whole word 'cat'.
- Many children find it easier to practice 'sound-talking' (oral blending) through hearing and speaking before they try to read words on a page.
- Oral blending helps children avoid guessing a word based only on the first letter or a picture.
- CVC words are simple words made of a Consonant, a Vowel, and a Consonant, such as 'dog' or 'pin'.
- Every child learns at their own pace, so please check with your child's teacher for the specific sounds they are learning in class.

Things to try at home

- Play 'I Spy' using sounds: 'I spy with my little eye a b-u-s' and see if your child can blend the sounds to guess 'bus'.
- Use a 'robot voice' to break words into sounds during the day, such as asking them to pass the c-u-p.
- Practice with simple word families, like changing the first sound in 'cat' to make 'mat' or 'sat'.
- Keep it short and playful, turning it into a quick game while you are in the car or making dinner.

Find out more

- Your child's class teacher or the school's phonics lead.
- The GOV.UK website for official guidance on the National Curriculum.
- The school's parent handbook or reading folder.