

D1: Making Compound Words

Lesson Objective: Children will hear two spoken one-syllable words and combine them orally to make a new, two-syllable word with its own meaning.

Materials

📄 [word list](#)

Activity

Video: How to play Making Compound Words

Say two one-syllable words for your child, with a significant pause (one second long) between them. Then tell her to put the two short words together into a longer word.

Adult: I'm going to say two words. I want you to listen and then put my two words together to make one long word.

Let me show you: snow [1-second pause] ball.

What word? Snowball. Now you do it.

Listen: snow [pause] ball. What word?

Child: Snowball.

Adult: Good job! Let's do another one.

Listen: tooth [pause] brush. What's the word?

Child: Toothbrush!

If the child struggles, put a shorter pause between the two one-syllable words as you say them. Then gradually lengthen the pause until the two words are said with a full one-second pause between them.

Go through the other words in the word list until your child stops paying attention. You can continue the activity at your next session.

NOTE: Hand motions (as demonstrated in the video) are an option for this activity.

Another way to use hand gestures is to face the child and extend the fist of your

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right hand in front of you as you say the first word. Next, extend the fist of your left hand in front of you while saying the last word. Leave a little space between your two fists. Then bring your fists together when you ask “What word?”

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Adaptation: Read the main activity, watch the video, and follow the instructions above, with the following changes:

Teach the children hand gestures to illustrate the combining of two words into one new word. For example, have children hold out their fists, several inches apart, to represent each one-syllable word as they repeat the words. Then have them move their two fists together and say the new compound word.