

H8: Build-a-Word Puzzles

Lesson Objective: Using two-piece jigsaw puzzles, children will connect a puzzle piece of a pictured root word with the appropriate consonant letter puzzle piece, orally blend the picture name and the consonant phoneme, and say the newly formed word.

Materials & Preparation

- five pages of puzzles and an index — the index is for the adult's reference only

Print out the puzzle pages and index, preferably on sturdy card-stock paper. Each sheet has four two-piece puzzles.

Cut apart the puzzle pieces. Keep the puzzle pieces grouped by page number (for example, keep the H8-1 pieces in one group and the H8-2 pieces in a separate group).

Activity

Warm-Up: Quickly go through the consonant sound cards, in flash card fashion, to review the letter sounds. As you show each card, have the child give you the appropriate sound.

Video: How to play Build-a-Word Puzzles

Take the puzzle pieces for two puzzles, mix them up, and spread them out in front of the child, with the letter sound pieces face-down and the pictures face-up. Name the pictures on the picture pieces, and have the child repeat the picture names.

To start the game, have the child turn over one of the face-down sound pieces and try to match it with a picture piece. Then he should touch under each piece as he says the picture name and the letter sound and then blend the two pieces together into a word, sweeping his right forefinger from left to right under the two puzzle pieces. (This helps teach children that we read words from left to right.)

Adult: Find the two parts of your puzzle and fit them together.

Then say the two word parts of your puzzle.

First say the name of the picture and then the sound of the letter.

H8: Build-a-Word Puzzles (continued)

Child: Tie and /mmm/.

Adult: Good. Now put them together like you put the puzzle together.

Listen: tie • • /mmm/. Say it fast. What's the word?

Child: Time!

Adult: Right!

Then have the child put together the remaining two-piece puzzle. Once he does that successfully, put out two more puzzles for him to solve. Go through about ten different puzzles in one session of this activity.

NOTE: The pieces are designed so that each one will fit with only one other piece from that page. (Although you could put tie and t together to make the word tight, those puzzle pieces will not fit together properly.)

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Additional Materials:

- optional: pinking shears or wavy-edge scissors (Cut apart the puzzle pieces with these special scissors for a more distinctive edge to match up.)

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

Warm up by using consonant sound cards to review the consonant sounds.

Give one two-piece puzzle to each child. Let each child put their puzzle together. Follow the directions in the video for saying the new word. Then collect the puzzles and distribute them again, each child getting a different puzzle. Once the children understand the concept, play the game according to the directions above. This is more difficult and may take additional practice.