

J2: Connect the Sounds

Lesson Objective: Children will blend two spoken phonemes together to produce a twophoneme spoken word. (NOTE: The objective of this lesson is to order and blend sounds into words; it has nothing to do with spelling!)

Materials

■ [word list](#)

Print the word list, but do not show it to the child. This is for the adult's reference only.

Activity

Video: How to play Connect the Sounds

Explain to the child that you are going to play a new game. You will say a letter sound (a consonant or digraph) and a letter name (a long vowel sound), and she has to figure out what word they make when you put them together.

Face the child, and hold up your right hand next to your face, with the palm facing you. When you say the first sound, stick up your index finger to signal that this is the first sound. When you say the second sound, hold up a second (middle) finger as well, to signal that this is the second sound.

Demonstrate the game for the child, like this:

Adult: I'm going to say a letter sound and a letter name.

Let's see if you can put them together to say a word.

Listen carefully: /nnn/ [raising 1 finger]

/O/ [raising 2 fingers]

Again. Listen:

/nnn/ ••• /O/ [raising 1 and then 2 fingers]

Now I'll say it fast: no!

J2: Connect the Sounds (continued)

Now involve the child in the game:

Adult: Now you try to figure out this word.

Listen carefully: /A/ ••• /t/ [raising 1 and then 2 fingers]

Again. Listen:

/A/ ••• /t/ [raising 1 and then 2 fingers]

Now you say those sounds while I raise my fingers.

[raise 1 finger]

Child: /A/

Adult: [raise 2 fingers]

Child: /t/

Adult: Yes, /A/ ••• /t/. Say those sounds fast.

Child: Um...ate!

Adult: Yes, ate. "I ate my dinner."

Start out with a series of words made up of a continuant consonant sound and a long vowel sound. These sounds are easier for children to blend. Then move on to words with a stop-sound consonant and a long vowel sound. Finally, give the child a random mix of these two types of words.

Small Groups (2-5 children)

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

This activity may take several sessions. Select words from the word list, beginning with words that have a continuant consonant sound and a long vowel sound.

Practice the activity as a group, letting all the children respond. Give the same consonant sound and vowel name to each child. Have them put the sounds together to make the word. Then give each child a different letter sound and letter name to put together.

J2: Connect the Sounds (continued)

It can be helpful and engaging for the children to fist their left hand when they repeat the first phoneme, fist their right hand when they repeat the last phoneme, and then touch their fists together, side-by-side, when they blend the two phonemes into a spoken word. (See the small group adaptation for Activity D1.)

In later sessions move on to words with a stop-sound consonant. Once children understand the concept of making words with the more difficult stop-sound consonants, give a random mix of the two types of words (with stop-sound and continuant consonants). Provide many opportunities for practice.