

J3: Word Surgery

Lesson Objective: Using picture cards, manipulatives and a counting mat, children will hear a two-phoneme spoken word and separate it into two correctly ordered parts.

Materials & Preparation

- picture cards and word list
- mat for picture card and sound cards
- sound counting cards or sound markers

Print out the picture cards, word list, mat, and sound counting cards, preferably on sturdy card-stock paper. Cut apart the picture cards and sound counting cards. The word list is for the adult's reference only.

Activity

Video: How to play Word Surgery

Before starting the game, go through the picture cards with your child to be sure she is using the correct word for each picture (e.g., ace instead of card).

Set the mat in front of the child. Shuffle the picture cards and put them in a facedown stack next to the mat.

Explain to the child that in this game, he will listen to a word and cut it up into sounds. For each sound he hears, he will put a sound counting card in the first or last of the two smaller boxes on the mat.

Adult: Your job in this game is to listen carefully to a word
and then cut it up into the sounds you hear.

Turn over a picture card, say its name, and put it on your mat.

Then say the name slowly, one sound at a time.

For each sound you say, put one of these dot cards
on the mat below the picture.

Guide your child through the first round of the game:

J3: Word Surgery (continued)

Adult: Turn over a picture card. What's the picture?

Child: A knee!

Adult: Yes, knee. Now say knee one sound at a time.

Like this: nnn • • • EEE.

Child: nnn • • • EEE.

Adult: What's the first sound you hear in knee? Listen: nnn • • • EEE.

Child: nnn

Adult: Right, the first sound in knee is /nnn/.

So put a sound marker here. [Point to left box.]

Child: [Puts card in box on mat.]

Adult: Now, what's the next sound you hear in knee. Listen: nnn • • • EEE. Child: Um...

Adult: Listen: nnn • • • EEE.

Say nnn • • • EEE and tell me the next sound.

Child: nnn • • • EEE. EEE!

Adult: Yes, the next sound you hear in knee is EEE.

So put a sound marker here. [Point to right box.]

Child: [Puts card in box on mat.]

Now that he has "cut up" the word, focus his attention on the number of sounds in the word and their order.

Adult: Now, say knee a sound at a time, and point to the sound marker when you say its sound. Child: nnn. [points to left card] EEE [points to right card] Adult: So how many sounds are in knee?

Child: Um...

Adult: Look at your sound markers.

Child: Two!

Adult: Yes, the word knee has two sounds.

Say the two sounds again as you point to each sound marker.

J3: Word Surgery (continued)

Child: nnn. [points to left card] EEE [points to right card]

Adult: Now say those sounds in order, fast.

Child: nnnEEE.

Adult: What's the word?

Child: Knee!

Adult: Good job! Now take the sound markers off the mat. Pick another picture card to put on the mat and do surgery on a new word.

Go through about ten picture cards in a session. Once the child grasps the concept of the activity, shuffle all the cards already used in the session and challenge the child to beat his own time.

Be sure to emphasize the child's giving each sound in order and then blending the sounds, beginning to end, into the whole word.

Small Groups (2-5 children)

Additional Materials:

- enough work mats and sound counting cards for each child
- optional: pocket chart and extra pictures

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

If you have a pocket chart, place the picture card on the top row. The second row will be the row for the sound counting cards. Demonstrate several examples of the activity. The children can take turns putting a sound card under the picture.

When they have a grasp of the concept, give each child a mat and sound counting cards. Show a picture card to the group, then give it to one child. Perform "surgery" on the word together, being sure to say the phoneme for each word part. Select another picture card for the next child. Give everyone many opportunities for practice. The goal is for each child in the group to be able to tell you both which sounds and how many sounds they hear in each word.