

Ideas for Teaching Students to Blend

So your students are solid with their sound-symbol correspondence and are ready to blend those sounds into words. If you assess and monitor using the DIBELS Next, you may find that moving some students into just blending the word can be a bit challenging. The following activities may help:

Decoding Sound-by-Sound

If your students are sounding out each letter and then going back to blend, you may want to begin with onset-rime. Working with word families also helps students recognize “chunks” in words.

If your students do this: /m/ /a/ /t/ or /m/ /a/ /t/ /mat/

These activities may help:



Blending Board

Using blending boards daily during your small group instruction is very helpful. Begin each session with approximately 5 minutes of practice with the blending board. Use the onset-rime cards for students at the level.

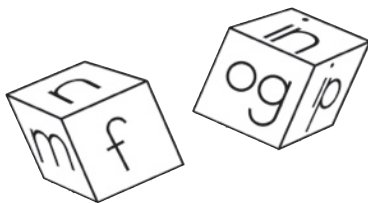
Directions for making a blending board and free downloadable blending board cards can be found on the Make, Take & Teach website. Just click [HERE](#). You may also wish to view the [How To Use Blending Boards video](#) for a demonstration contained within the blog post.

Blending Cards

You may find the blending cards helpful during either whole group or small group instruction. Students blend the underlined sounds and then the whole word. To download the small cards, click [HERE](#). To download the larger cards, click [HERE](#). It's also important to practice blending within context. I've also included sentences containing CVC words with the blending cue lines for use during small group instruction. Click [HERE](#) to download the sentences.



Word/ Not A Word

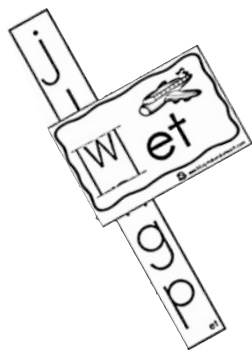


The Word/Not A Word activity can be used during small group instruction or as an activity within your literacy centers. Simply write consonants on one wooden cube and word families on another. Have students roll the cubes and write the word (or not a word) in the correct column.

Pocket Chart Pictures- Word Families

The Word Families Pocket Chart Pictures is another activity for helping students see patterns within words. Simply place the target word families on the pocket chart and have your students sort the pictures. You can find the Pocket Chart Pictures for Word Families in the [Make, Take & Teach online store](#).



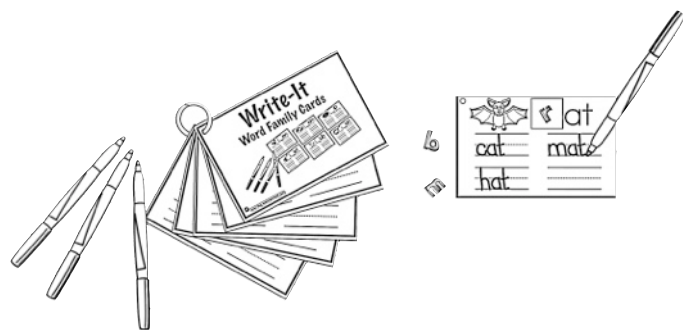


Word Family Sliders

Word family sliders can also be used during small group instruction or within literacy centers. Students read the words as they move the beginning sound through the slot. Click [HERE](#) to download the free Word Family Sliders from the Make, Take & Teach website.

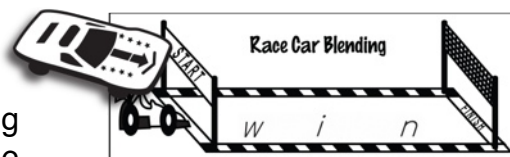
Cupcake CVC Words

The Make, Take & Teach Cupcake Matching- CVC Words is a fun activity for building words using word families. Click [HERE](#) to download this freebie.



Writing Word Families

The [Write-It Word Family Cards](#) makes for a fun center activity. Have your students place magnetic letters in the box to create words. If a word is created with the letter, the students write the words on the card.



Race Car Blending

[Race Car Blending](#) is an all-time favorite activity for teaching students to blend. All you'll need are dollar store race cars and the tracks. Students blends the sounds as they move the car over the letters.

Dry Erase Boards



During small group instruction, provide each student with a dry erase board and marker. Have them write a word family on the board. Provide words for the students and have them change the initial consonant (e.g. lip, sip, tip, rip...). Change the activity by having them write the first two letters and then change the ending sound.

Decoding Words using Onset-Rime

Once your students are blending words using onset-rime, it is time to move them along into just blending the whole word.

If your students do this: /m/ /at/ /mat/

These activities may help:

- Use your blending board with the whole words.
- Play games such as [Snowball Fight](#) and [The Big Game](#). These activities give students practice blending CVC words.



For more teaching ideas and activities, be sure to visit our blog:

www.blog.maketaketeach.com



Word

Not a Word

