



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Blend Sounds, Stretch and Reread

It often requires a lot of patience to listen to beginning readers as they learn to decode and sound out words. Beginning readers usually learn their sounds in isolation and as a result sound choppy when they try to put these sounds together to make words. Taking the individual letter sounds and blending them together can be a first step to becoming a reader for many children. As with any other task, to improve in reading a person must have increased exposure and practice, practice, practice. Your child is working on the accuracy strategy of blending sounds. The following ideas provide you with suggestions on how you can assist your child in becoming a better reader.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading and blending sounds together, encourage your child to listen for a familiar word.
2. Give your child a rubber band and have them take it between two hands. Write down a simple word for your child to read (3 letter words such as bat, dog, and cap). Have your child pull the band apart a bit with each sound in the word. This will have your child stretching out both the band and the word. When finished with all of the sounds, say the word together while bringing hands together.
3. When reading, tell your child, "Say each letter as you stretch them out, then put them together and say it fast." Demonstrate what this sounds like for your child.
4. If your child is having difficulty blending sounds and still sounds choppy, encourage your child to sing as they sound out the word. It is almost impossible to make a word sound choppy when you are singing. 😊

Thank you for your continued support at home!

- Ideas and strategies are taken from: *The CAFE Book*, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser
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