

Segmenting Phonemes Activities

Jump Along with Phonemes Mark the floor or sidewalk with a series of 12 lines (number of lines is changeable). The child will begin by standing along the first line. Call out a word like "top". Then say "go". The child jumps forward the number of phonemes in the word. If the child is correct (in this case, he/she has jumped forward 3 rows), he/she keeps his/her place. If incorrect, he/she moves back to the beginning line. The game ends when the child has passed the 12th line.

Blocks Teach the child how to stretch words, saying them slowly, so he/she can hear the sounds that make up a word. Demonstrate the process. Invite the child to say the word slowly as they listen for the individual phonemes. You may want to have the child "stretch" a rubber band as they say the word. Be sure the child is actually saying the words. After the child has learned how to say the words slowly, use small colored blocks to mark the different phonemes. Example: Say "go"-- "g...o" and use two different colored blocks to represent the sounds. Later, ask the child to tell how many blocks he/she will need to represent the sounds in other words.

Fast/Slow Say a word and tell the child that this is the *fast* way to say the word. Then give an example of the *slow* way. For example, sat (*fast* way) and s-a-t (*slow* way). Give the child another word (for example: bed) and ask if he/she can say it the *slow* way (b-e-d).

Ball Toss Give the child a ball and have him/her toss the ball up in the air for each sound in the word. Have him/her say the sound as the ball is tossed. A small foam ball from any dollar store works well.

Segmentation Cheer Each time you say the cheer, change the words in the second line (change Sun! Sun! Sun! to Ten! Ten! Ten!, etc.). Have the child segment each word sound by sound. Begin with words that have three phonemes, such as *ten, rat, cat, dog, soap, read, and fish*.

Listen to my cheer. Then shout the sounds you hear.

Sun! Sun! Sun! Let's take apart the word *sun*.

Give me the beginning sound. (*Children respond with /s/.*)

Give me the middle sound. (*Children respond with /u/.*)

Give me the ending sound. (*Children respond with /n/.*)

That's right! /s/ /u/ /n/—Sun! Sun! Sun!

App abc PocketPhonics

Getting into Books and Real Stories Since the goal is to improve the child's reading skills, we need to get him/her into books. Choose four words from a short reading selection (one page of a book) and say each word in parts to the child. Ask him/her to put the parts together. Now help him/her find those words on the page and make a connection between the words he/she put together and what they look like in print.