



Resource Guide

BLENDING

What is blending?	Blending is the ability to hold speech sounds sequentially in working memory and join them together through the use of phonological processing. These joined sounds are then combined to create a fluent, spoken word. Blending is an essential skill that allows us to read unfamiliar words.
Start blending words at the syllable level.	Start with compound words, such as “rainbow” or “pancake”. Have the written words along with the two pictures that will make up the new compound word. Have your child slide the two pictures together while saying the words to make the word. Ex: “rain” + “bow” = rainbow
Syllable blending	Write words on paper and cut them apart into syllables. You can make the edges look like puzzle pieces. This is a good visual to help kids understand how syllables work together to make a whole word- just like puzzle pieces work together to make a picture. Ex: “mon” + “ster” = monster
Blending words from phonemes	Each sound in a word is called a phoneme. Blending words from phonemes is blending words together at the sound level. One fun way to help kids visualize words broken into phonemes and blended back together is to use their arm. If you have a three phoneme word such as “dog”, touch your shoulder for “d”, your elbow for “o”, and touch your hand for “g”. Start slowly and say each sound as you go, then quickly move your hand from your shoulder to your hand saying the sounds and blending them into the word.
Want more?	www.sproutlabs.com

Benchmark Milestones

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Benchmark milestones are specific goals that children are expected to achieve at certain stages of their early literacy development

BOY- Beginning of the Year; MOY- Middle of the Year; EOY- End of the Year

Pre-K	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can blend limited or no compound words Ex: /cup/ /cake/ <i>cupcake</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can blend compound words only Ex: /cup/ /cake/ <i>cupcake</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can blend both compound words and onset-rime Ex: /d/ /og/, <i>dog</i>
Kindergarten	BOY	1st-20th %tile: Can blend limited or no compound words Ex: /cup/ /cake/ <i>cupcake</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can blend compound words and limited onset-rime Ex: /d/ /og/, <i>dog</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can blend 2-phoneme words Ex: /s/ /ee/, <i>see</i>
	MOY	1st-20th %tile: Can blend limited or no compound words or onset-rime Ex: /d/ /og/, <i>dog</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can blend onset-rime and 2-phoneme words Ex: /s/ /ee/, <i>see</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can blend 3-phoneme words Ex: /c/ /a/ /t/, <i>cat</i>
	EOY	1st-20th %tile: Can blend limited or no compound words, onset-rime, or 2-phoneme words Ex: /s/ /ee/, <i>see</i> 21st-40th %tile: Can blend limited 3-phoneme words Ex: /c/ /a/ /t/, <i>cat</i> 41st-99th %tile: Can blend 3-phoneme words Ex: /f/ /u/ /n/, <i>fun</i>