

Tips to encourage blending...

What is blending?

Oral blending is when children can HEAR the individual sounds (phonemes) in words and push those together to form the whole word.

Modelling blending:

Model blending sounds as much as you possibly can.

“I need my c-oa-t. coat”

“I can see a b-ir-d. bird”

“I’m making a cup of t-ea. tea”

After a while, the children may start to naturally blend the sounds, rather than you doing it.

Use pure sounds:

Make sure you are pronouncing the sounds correctly, and avoid using an ‘uh’ at the end of a letter sound. Check the school website for videos on how to pronounce the sounds correctly.

What if my child is struggling?

1. Try practising with syllables in words first, e.g. win-dow, rab-bit. They should pick this up fairly quickly.
2. Move on to blending the initial letter and the remainder of the word, e.g. c-at, b-at, h-at. This is easier if you concentrate on rhyming words at a time.
3. Try VC words (vowel-consonant) e.g. i-n, a-t, i-t, i-f.
4. When moving onto 3 letter words (CVC), try starting the word with a continuous consonant. These are consonants that have a longer, stretched sound like ssssss, mmmmm, fffff, rather than short sounds like p, d, g. This will make it easier to merge sounds together.
e.g. sssss-i-t, fffff-u-n, mmmmm-o-p.