

## LISTENING GAMES: HOW CAN WE PUT WORDS TOGETHER AND TAKE THEM APART?

The ability to hear individual sounds in words, blend them or pull them apart is an important pre-reading and writing skill. It's a STRONG predictor of how easily a child will learn to read and spell.

As teachers, we start with listening exercises before introducing letters to go with the sounds. These exercises could be done when you have an extra 5 minutes with no prep needed!

**BLENDING:** In this activity, you will break words apart into individual sounds or syllables. Children will repeat and put the sounds together to form the word. You could be silly and talk like a robot to isolate the sounds! Play Guess My Word.

### **Some Examples:**

**Teacher does a chopping motion for each sound or syllable.. Children repeat.**

TEACHER (break up the sounds in cat:) : /c/ /a/ /t/.

STUDENTS REPEAT each sound and say: cat.

TEACHER: /sh/ /i/ /p/.

STUDENTS REPEAT each sound and say: ship.

TEACHER: /b/ /a/ /k/.

STUDENTS REPEAT each sound and say: bake.

TEACHER: /s/ /t/ /o/ /p/.

STUDENTS REPEAT each sound and say: stop.

TEACHER (break up word into syllables): im/ por/ tant.

STUDENTS REPEAT syllables and say: important.

**SEGMENTING:** This is the opposite of blending. In this activity, you will say the word as a whole. Children repeat the word and isolate the individual sounds. While they are saying the sounds, they count them on fingers, and repeat the original word.

### **Some Examples:**

TEACHER: Say sock.

STUDENTS:: Sock.

TEACHER: Sound sock

STUDENTS: Will break the word into individual sounds /s/ /o/ /k/. As they say each sound, they hold up a finger or tap in their hand.

TOGETHER: Sock

They could hold up their fingers to show the number of sounds.

