



# Be the Sound

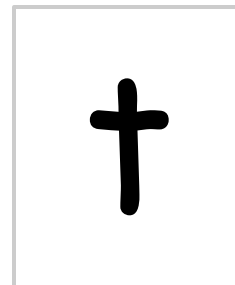
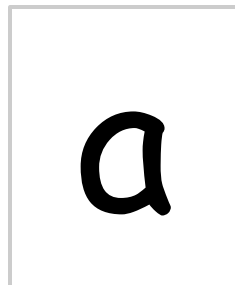
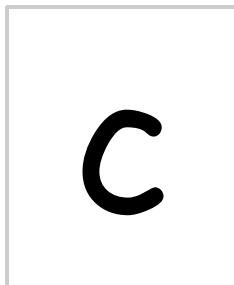
Skill: Blending

<u>What you need</u>	<u>Who can play</u>
Paper or index cards Scissors Pen, pencil, or marker	Child and adult / older sibling

**Blending** involves hearing separate sounds and putting them together in your mind to form a complete word. This skill is one part of **phonological awareness**. It will be needed when children are “sounding out” words by saying each sound and then putting them together to make the word. For example, the sounds /t/ /o/ /p/ are blended together to make the word *top*.

## What you do

1. Make letter cards for several simple words (such as **c**, **a**, and **t** cards for **cat**). Make enough cards for 10-20 simple, 3-letter words. You can reuse letters for different words.
2. Place the cards rightside up on the table. If using all of the cards is overwhelming for your child, just use a smaller set of the cards at a time.
3. Call out the first sound in one of the words (such as /c/ in cat). Have your child find the card for that sound and put it in front of them. Continue calling the other sounds in the word in order, and have your child line up the cards in front of them.
4. After you have called out each sound and the word has been made,
  - a. have your child touch each card and say each sound in order, one at a time;
  - b. have them slowly run their finger under the cards, from left to right, and stretch out the three sounds;
  - c. and finally, have them blend the sounds to say the word.
5. Repeat with new words, stretching out the words as many times as needed before blending.





Try using these 3-letter words:

cat	bet	bit	cot	cut
fat	get	dig	dot	dug
gab	hen	fin	fog	fun
hat	jet	him	got	gum
lap	let	kin	hop	hug
map	men	lip	jog	jug
nap	net	nip	lot	mug
pan	pet	pin	mop	nut
rap	red	rip	not	pug
sad	set	sit	pod	run
tab	ten	tip	rob	sun
wag	vet	wig	sob	tug
yak	wet	zip	top	yum
zap	yet			

### Other ways to play

After your child has blended the sounds to make a word, have them mix up the three cards, and then get them back in the right order to make that word and read it again. Do this a few times, and give them as much help as they need to get them in the correct order.

### Taking it further

Do this same activity with these four-letter words.

black	flap	close
bleach	flock	price
block	flip	clap
brush	plug	prop
bread	pluck	cream
braid	plum	trap
clean	prize	crib
truck	crop	trim