



# Turtle Talk

Skill: Blending

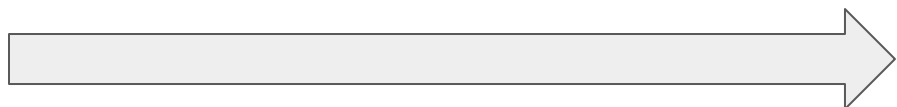
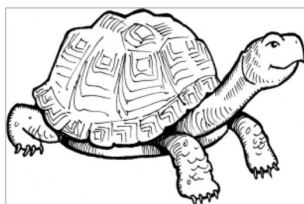
<u>What you need</u>	<u>Who can play</u>
Printed copy of the turtle (attached) Scissors <b>Optional:</b> glue or tape, craft stick, and markers, crayons, or colored pencils	Child and adult / older sibling

**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

This activity helps your child “stretch out” words to hear how the sounds blend together.

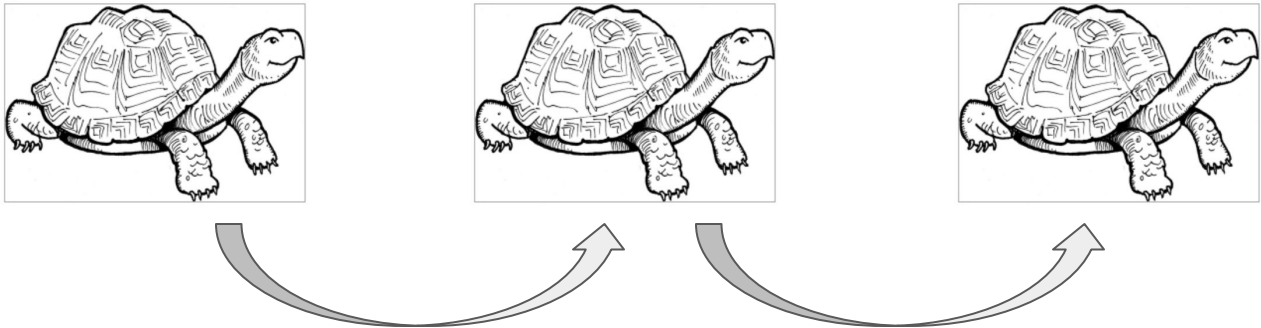
1. Give the turtle picture to your child and have him/her color it, if possible. If you have a craft stick, they can glue the turtle picture to it.
2. Explain to your child that since turtles move slowly, they must also talk s-l-ow-l-y. Declare that it is “Turtle Time!” and you will say words like turtles move.
3. Choose a word with three letters (making one *syllable*), and “stretch out” the word, or say it very slowly. For example, say the word *run* as *rrrrrrrr...uuuuuuu...nnnnnnn*.
4. Then have your child slowly move their Turtle Talk turtle from left to right as they also “stretch out” the word and finish by saying the word in a regular way.
5. Repeat with 10-20 three-letter, one-syllable words. Remember that some sounds cannot be stretched out and you will need to say them only one time. For example, for the word *cat*, you would say, *c.....aaaaaaaaa...t*.





## Other ways to play

1. Instead of stretching out the words, say each sound one at a time, as though the turtle were slowly taking steps. Have your child move the turtle to take steps, as s/he repeats the sounds, and then blend those sounds together to make the word. For example, you say, /r/ /u/ /n/, your child moves the turtle three steps as they repeat the sounds, and then they blend the sounds to make the word *run*.



2. If blending sounds seems to be too difficult, break familiar words into syllables and say each syllable one at a time. For example, say *pa....per* and have your child blend those syllables into the word *paper*. (Each syllable in a word has one vowel sound.)

Here are some familiar household words, broken into syllables, that you can use:

so-fa

sofa

wa-ter

water

ov-en

oven

bath-room

bathroom

ta-ble

table

bal-con-y

balcony

car-pet

carpet

bed-room

bedroom

cer-e-al

cereal

dish-wash-er

dishwasher

mi-cro-wave

microwave

dres-ser

dresser

toi-let

toilet

place-mat

placemat

show-er

shower

blank-et

blanket

pil-low

pillow

clos-et

closet

## Taking it further

Choose longer and longer words to use for this activity. For example, say, *b.....uuuuuuuuu...t.....er*, for the word *butter*.

