



Segmenting Words With Speed



PICTURE ACTIVITY: The snoring brothers and the parrot are saying three sounds: /m/ /a/ /n/. When you put those sounds together quickly, what word is it? Yes, it's "man." Hey, you are reading!

Note to Parent: Even though the brothers have stopped moving and are asleep, this activity is about speed. Why is speed so important to young readers? When your child can do a skill quickly, she shows she really knows the skill. Then, as your child begins to do the skill automatically, she can begin to use her brain to think about what the words mean when she reads. This activity practices breaking real words into sound segments.

You should have: the music. [\(Here!\)](#)

LESSON:

Say We are going to see how fast you can segment words.

I have some new music for us to use for this today. I'm going to put it on and say the three sounds of a word. I want you to echo me and tap your finger too. Sometimes I will say the three sounds of the word slowly, and sometimes I will say them very quickly. So you really need to pay attention. Are you ready?

Do Put on the music. As you say the three sounds of a word, tap the sounds out on your fingers too. (Remember? One pointer finger taps the other pointer finger once for each sound and then "scrapes" along the finger, knuckle to finger tip, to blend the sounds into the word.) Use these words: mop, lip, rub, pen. Do not show these printed words to your child.

Say 1st time /m/ /o/ /p/ mop (*Child repeats with finger taps.*)
 2nd time /m/ /o/ /p/ mop (*Child echoes with finger taps.*) m-o-p mop
 3rd time /m/ /o/ /p/ (*Child repeats with finger taps.*) m-o-p, m-o-p, m-o-p
 4th time mo—p mo—p (*Repeat together with child, shaking fingers overhead.*)

Say Now we'll do some without music. I'll call out the whole word and you say and tap its sounds as fast as you can. Don't get sloppy just because we are moving quickly. You still need to say each sound.

Do Use these words:

cap	zap	kid	red
tap	vet	bug	vat
rug	nut	cap	
jug	cup	leg	
mop	tub	jug	
top	tug	ten	
bed	jog	met	
fed	net	sun	
sip	set	yam	
rip	pal	not	
pin	mud	win	
zip	men	nap	
yes	man	gum	

Note to Parent: Your child's response should be immediate and accurate. If your child is not able to supply the sounds, model segmenting the word and have her echo you.