



Beginning Sounds And Segmenting Spoken Words



PICTURE ACTIVITY: There is so much going on in the city. When you look at the picture on this card, can you find something that begins with each of these sounds? /b/ bicycle, /t/ tires, /f/ fish, /m/ mother, /p/ pizza cart, /j/ jumprope, /g/ girls. You may find others in the picture, too. Remember to say the letter's sound, not its name.

Note to Parent: This song has been used in school to practice hearing and echoing the beginning sounds in words and hearing and echoing all three sounds in a word. Breaking apart the separate sounds in a word is called "segmenting." This lesson will help you review "beginning sounds" and begin "segmenting."

You should have: music links, a set of 12 picture cards. (bat, boat, seal, fish, fan, sun, bed, gift, dog, mask, hat, mouse)

LESSON:

Say You know the "Train Is A-Coming" song from school but I want to learn it too. Let's put on the music and sing along with it. [\(Music Link\)](#)

Do Put on music and sing along with it. After the chorus, pause the music.

Say When we get to this next part of the song, I'm going to show you a picture. (Hold up the picture of the bat.) then I'll say: "Bat.....The engine says /b/ at the front of bat." Then you will echo me. Ready?

Do Turn on music again and sing along with the bat example, then press pause.

Say There is enough room in our song for us to do four pictures like that. Then we'll go back to the chorus. Let's try it with the music. [\(Music Link\)](#)

Do Turn on music again and sing the song using four picture cards. Use the same four cards for the next two verses so your child gets used to the song's pattern. Then pick a different four cards and start again. (If it's easier to sing the song without music, do that.)

Segmenting

Note to Parent: When a child can hear a spoken word and then tell you all the word's individual sounds, we call that "segmenting." This means your child is hearing the word's sound "segments." The next activity begins teaching this next level of skill. The tapping of fingers to show each sound is a neat way of also making a physical memory of the sounds. For many children, this tapping activity helps them understand what is going on. For some, tapping for each sound is the ONLY way they will understand. Either way, children think it's fun to use their fingers in this way.

Say I want to show you a new instrument called rhythm sticks you can make with your fingers. They make two types of sounds. The first is "tapping."

Do Tap one pointer finger on your other pointer finger.

Say The other sound is "scraping."

Do Show scraping by sliding one pointer finger along other pointer finger from knuckle to tip of that finger. Practice making three tapping sounds and then a scrape along the finger. Let your child show you she can do this.

Say Now we are going to use the tapping and scraping rhythm to sing the part of "Train Is A-Coming" that goes "Bat.....the sounds are /b/ /a/ /t/ in bat."

Do Have your child repeat the three sounds in the word bat, tapping her finger on her other pointer finger for each sound and then scraping along the finger as she says the final "bat."

Say Now that we know this rhythm and how to use our finger sticks for each sound, let's try some new words with the music. First, I'll sing and tap the word, then it will be your turn to repeat.

Do Put on music now, and sing along. Use words: sun, rug, cup, net, rock, map, fan, bell. [\(Music Link\)](#)



Other games to try: Now that you can tap and scrape, you can play the game with or without music. Try three sound words like pan, man, can, tan or nonsense words like: mip, pip, fip, gip or fam, tef, mub, tus, bot. Lots of practice hearing and tapping out the sound segments of a word will help your child read very soon. Give each other a high five after your tapping session!





