



It often requires a lot of patience to listen to beginning readers as they learn to decode and sound out words. Beginning readers usually learn their sounds in isolation and as a result sound choppy when they try to put them together to make words. Reading words slowly by reading the individual letter sounds and blending them together can be many children's first step toward becoming a reader. As with any other task, increased exposure and practice are key to a person's ability to improve in reading. Your child is working on the accuracy strategy ***Say the Word Slowly***. The following ideas provide you with suggestions for how you can help them become a better reader.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS STRATEGY AT HOME?

1. When reading words slowly and blending sounds together, encourage your child to listen for a familiar word.
2. Give your child a rubber band and have them hold it between their hands. Write down a simple word for your child to read (for example, a three-letter word such as *bat*, *dog*, or *cap*). Have your child pull the band apart a bit with each sound in the word. This will have your child stretching out both the band and the word. When finished with all the sounds, say the word together while the child brings their hands together.
3. When reading, tell your child, "Say each letter sound as you stretch them out, then put them together and say the word fast." Demonstrate what this sounds like for your child.
4. If your child is having difficulty blending sounds as they say the word slowly and therefore it still sounds choppy, encourage them to sing as they sound out the word. It is almost impossible to make a word sound choppy when you are singing.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AT HOME!