



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Accuracy		Strategy: Blend Sounds; Stretch and Reread	
Definition	Taking the individual sounds of letters or phonemes and blending them together to read a word accurately.		
Why Children Need This Strategy	Beginning readers often learn their sounds in isolation. The leap from knowing letter sounds to reading words can be daunting. Taking the isolated sounds and blending them together can be a first step to becoming a reader for many children.		
Secret to Success	<p>As you are blending the sounds together, listen for a word you might have heard before.</p> <p>Students know letter sounds and possess phonemic awareness, phoneme blending, and segment onset and rime.</p>		
How We Teach It	<p>One of our favorite ways to teach this strategy is to give students a large rubber band or any stretchy band at all. We write a simple consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC) word on the whiteboard or chart, then have them take their bands between two hands. They pull the band apart a bit with each sound in the word, stretching out both the band and the word. When they have said each sound and the band is taut, they move their hands and the band quickly back together, with the band springing back to its original state. They say the word quickly at the same time, thus blending the sounds together.</p> <p>Another activity for teaching how to blend sounds together is called Stretch and Read. Students take one button for each letter in a word, laying them in a row and pushing each button forward as they say the individual sound. After saying each sound, they use both hands to push the buttons together, saying the word quickly.</p> <p>One of the verbal prompts we use is this one: "Say each letter as you stretch them out, then put them together and say it fast."</p>		
Troubleshooting	This strategy works best for simple, easy-to-decode words such as CVC words. The ability to have phonological awareness and be able to pull words apart and push them together auditorially is a very important prerequisite to the success of this strategy.		