

Guess the Word

Focus Area: Phonemic Awareness - Blending

Timing: 5-10 minutes

Materials:

- Pictures of concrete words. Include words that begin with continuous sounds (i.e., s, m, l, r...) as well as stop sounds (i.e., c, k, t, d...)

Procedure:

- Spread four pictures across the floor or table. Begin by saying to your students, "Guess the word I'm saying. It's one of these pictures." Pronounce words segmented into onset-rime (/m/ - /oon/), syllables (/foot/ - /ball/), and/or phonemes (/s/ - /n/ - /a/ - /k/). When your students guess correctly (snake), call on one student to show the picture of a snake. Repeat the game with other pictured words. Next time you play, use the same cards but add two words beginning with stop sounds. Students may have more difficulty with words that cannot be stretched out. Vary the skill level required for correct responding by the way you pronounce the words that need to be blended. This game can also be played with objects and miniature toys.
- To increase the level of difficulty, play this game orally (i.e., without visual clues).

Adapted from : O'Connor, R. E., D. W., Notari-Syverson, A., & Vadasy, P. F. (2005). *Ladders to Literacy: A Kindergarten Activity Book* (2nd Edition). Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes.