

Appendix A4

Steps for the Word Work Activity "Splitting"

1. Prepare the magnetic letters you will need in advance. This means choosing the word you will teach your child to "split" and other words with the same word pattern that he/she will be "splitting." This word/word pattern can be something your child already knows or something you know he or she has been exposed to but needs to practice in order to see parts in words.
2. For example, if your child needs to learn the -ing ending, prepare the magnetic letters to make the words "sing, wing, ping, thing." Another example: if your child needs to learn the word pattern -ay, prepare the magnetic letters to make the words "day, say, way, may, play."
3. Once you have all the magnetic letters prepared, spread them out in a line at the top of a cookie sheet or magnetic board or even just the top of the table.
4. Have your child point to each letter, going from left to right, and say the name of each letter.
5. Quickly and without a lot of talking, pull down the letters to make the first word. For this example, make the word "day." Underline the word with your finger from left to right and say the word out loud, "day." Ask your child also to underline the word and say the word out loud.
6. Again, quickly and without a lot of talking, show your child how you will "split" the word into two parts. Pull down the "d" in a diagonal going LEFT and make the /d/ sound. Pull down the "-ay" in a diagonal going LEFT and make the /ay/ sound. Underline the whole word from left to right with your finger and say the word "day." Make it swift and do not explain anything unnecessary. Simply move the letters and say "/d/, /-ay/, day." Show how to split the word several times. You can also split the word going down or up, but always make sure you split from LEFT to RIGHT.
7. Ask your child to copy you and split the word into two parts. Watch your child as he/she does this independently. Does he/she split the word going left to right with no problem? Does he/she make the corresponding sound with the magnetic letters? Do your child's eyes follow the two parts of the word when splitting the word?
8. After your child gets the hang of this, put away the "d" and ask your child to find the letter to make the word "say." Follow the previous steps to split the word say into "/s/, /-ay/, say."
9. Continue splitting the word with new beginnings to the word. When it comes time to split the word into a blend/digraph at the beginning, watch more closely. Can your child still split the word into two parts? If needed, model for your child how to split the word "play" into "/pl/, /-ay/, play." This will take some practice with finger dexterity and pulling the letters together, but try to let your child be independent.
10. It is very important that you only let your child split the word parts from LEFT to RIGHT to ensure directionality and so that he or she does not get confused.