

Appendix C6

How to Make a Blends Book

1. Take half-sized sheets of paper and staple them together to make a book (4 x 11 inches) with about 25-30 pages. Add a cover and back page. Write the title--(Your child's name)'s Chunks Book--on the front cover. If he/she wants, let your child decorate the cover of the book.
2. On each page of the book, write the digraphs ("th-", "wh-", "ch-", "sh-") and blends ("bl-", "pl-", "st-", "gr-", "cr-", etc.) your child is learning in large lowercase letters.
3. Each day you work together, focus on a few chunks at a time. For each page, review the digraph or blend you are focusing on and the sound the letters make together. Working together, brainstorm different words that start with the chunk and sound. For example, for the chunk "fl-" you might think of words such as flag, fly, or flip.
4. Have your child choose a word that he/she can draw next to the chunk. For example, your child might choose the word "chair" for the "ch-" digraph. Have him/her draw a simple chair next to the "ch" written on the page.
5. Next, show your child how to "read" that page; using two fingers, point to the "ch" and say aloud "/ch-/ch/" and then point to the picture and say "chair." Have your child practice doing this rapidly and smoothly. Add one or two blends each day you work together on this book. Do not create the whole book all in one sitting.
6. When your child has a few minutes, have him/her "read" this book aloud. It might sound like this: "/th-/ /th/- think; /wh/- /wh/- whale; /bl/- /bl/- black; /pl/- /pl/- plane; /st/- /st/- star." It is important that your child choose words/pictures that are meaningful to him/her.