



Parent Pipeline



CAFE Strategy: Chunk Letters and Sounds Together

When teaching children to read, we are always looking for ways to help them decode words efficiently, rapidly, and accurately. This allows them to focus their attention on understanding what they read rather than focusing on the fundamentals of each word. One way we accomplish this is through teaching children to watch for familiar word patterns called chunks. Chunks are groups of letters that when put together form a recognizable sound or word. Chunks can be found at the beginning, middle, or end of a word. Your child is working on the accuracy strategy of **chunking letters and sounds together**. Use the following suggestions to support your child's learning at home.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading with your child, have your child look for well-known letter chunks in the words they are reading. These chunks could be prefixes, suffixes, endings, whole words, or base words. For example, your child may look for the chunk end in the word send, or air in chair.
2. When chunking a word, have your child first read each chunk separately. Then, have your child put the chunks together to make the word. This will train your child to quickly and easily spot chunks.
3. If your child is having difficulty finding chunks, guide him/her to look for familiar endings and familiar prefixes.
4. Encourage your child to use his/her fingers to frame the chunks found in words, decode those chunks first, and then move on to tackle the whole word.
5. To help train your child to look for chunks in words, play a game of "I Spy" when reading. For example, when looking at the word blend, you would say, "In this word I spy the word end". Then, switch roles with your child and let your child "spy" chunks in words.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

- Written by: Allison Behne © www.thedailycafe.com
- Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser