

Step 4: Start Learning Three-Letter Blends (aka as WORDS)

After your child can read and pronounce two-letter blends, move on to three-letters blends, which are also known as WORDS. For the next 30-60 days, have your child practice CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words. If your child is able to correctly grasp a pencil or pen at this time, it may also be very useful to start teaching your child how to write each letter correctly. This process will greatly reinforce the learning process. At this point, you should continue to help your child to recognize and to name the sound at the beginning, middle, and ending of an object or word.

Three-Letter Blends (Words)				
ba + t = bat	ba + g = bag	bi + b = bib	bo + x = box	bu + g = bug
ca + t = cat	be + d = bed	ki + d = kid	to + p = top	hu + g = hug
da + d = dad	te + n = ten	si + t = sit	mo + p = mop	su + n = sun
ja + m = jam	ru + n = run	hi + p = hip	po + t = pot	nu + t = nut
fa + n = fan	pe + n = pen	di + g = dig	fo + x = fox	mu + d = mud

RULE: When there is only one vowel in a syllable or a word, it usually says the short sound.

RULE: When a one syllable word has a vowel in the middle, the vowel usually has a short sound.

For our purposes, a syllable can be thought of as a continuous segment of speech consisting of a vowel sound. Every syllable must have a vowel or vowel substitute (/y/).

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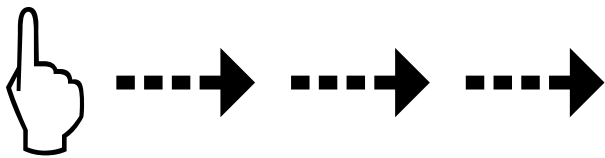
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Have your child begin to use this decoding technique:

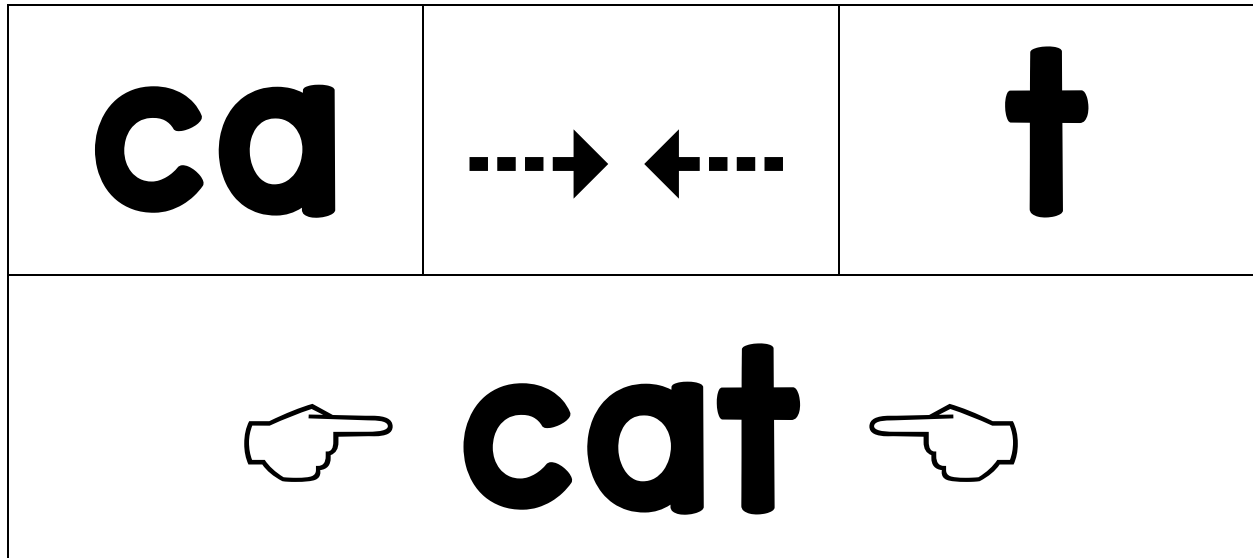
1. How many vowels are there in the word or syllable (one or two)?
2. What is/are the vowel(s)?
3. What sound do/does the vowel(s) make (short or long)?
4. Blend the first two letters together.
5. Add the ending sound.
6. Read the word.

More on Blending

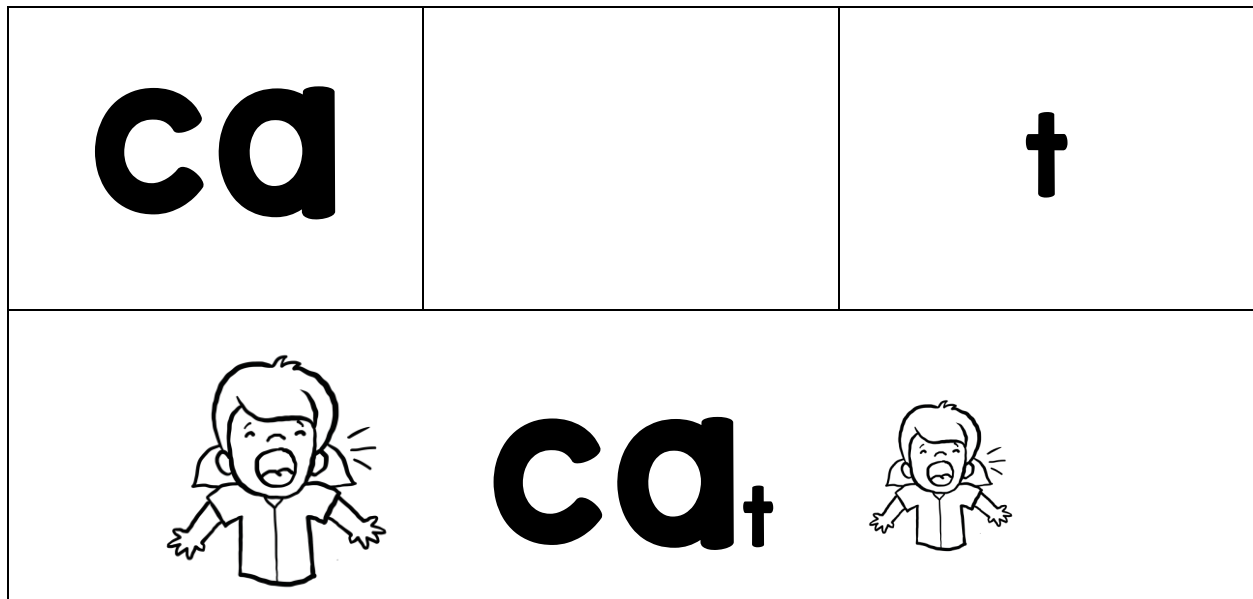
When first approaching three-letter blends (i.e., words), many parents have asked whether to blend the first two-letters or the last two-letters first. For example, is it ca+t or c+at. Our recommendation is to continue to stress the technique called successive blending. Focus on the first two-letters and then the ending sound. Intuitively, this will have your child to read faster and in the correct order (from left to right).

cat		
ca		t
		

You can also try pushing again, but make sure to have your child hold the first blended sound until the ending sound on the right comes toward it. This can be accomplished by practicing use flashcards (i.e., move both letters toward each other letter).



The final technique that we introduced earlier called isolated blending works, too. To use this technique, have your child say the first blended sound the loudest and the ending letter sound a little quieter.



Whatever method you chose, the key to successful reading is practice.