

Building Words

What is "Building Words" and why is it important?

"Building Words" (Gaskins et al., 1989) is a strategy that encourages your child to practice learning the letter relationships. This strategy helps your child build new words by adding consonants to the vowel patterns he has been practicing.

How can I use "Building Words" with my child?

First, choose a vowel pattern that your child has been studying, such as - at. Have your child write the vowel pattern at the top of a piece of paper. Ask your child to add letters to the beginning of the vowel pattern in order to build new words. For example, if your child is working on the -at pattern, he could add the letter b to the beginning of the vowel pattern to create the word bat. Encourage your child to create as many words as he can using the vowel pattern, consonants, and consonant blends (bat, cat, fat, hat, mat, pat, rat, sat, that, flat, splat...) Below is an example of a completed worksheet for three vowel patterns (at, an, ad).

-at	-an	-ad
bat	ban	bad
cat	can	Dad
fat	Dan	fad
hat	fan	had
mat	man	lad
pat	pan	mad
rat	ran	pad
sat	tan	sad
that	van	clad
flat	than	Brad
splat	clan	glad

Worksheet for Building Words

Pattern: _____ Pattern: _____ Pattern: _____

Building Words

Add letters to the beginning of these words and build new words. Read the words aloud.

_____	_____
____ _	____ _
____ _	____ _
____ _	____ _
____ _	____ _
____ _	____ _