



Mystery Word

What is “Mystery Word” and why is it important?

“Mystery Word” is a strategy that helps your child hear the individual sounds in words. By chunking or segmenting words into parts, your child will be able to identify the sounds that make up each word.

How can I use “Mystery Word” with my child?

Explain to your child that you have a mystery word that you want him to figure out. To identify the word, your child has to be able to blend separate sounds together and guess the word. For example, when your child hears the individual sounds /b/, /a/, /t/, he must link or blend the sounds together to identify the word bat.

My mystery word sounds like /b/ /a/ /t/.

Do you know my word? bat

My mystery word sounds like /l/ /u/ /n/ /ch/.

Do you know my word? lunch

This is a good strategy to practice in the car, at the doctor's office, or at the dinner table. Make it a whole family activity, with older siblings thinking up words and segmenting them and younger siblings helping in the guessing.