



WELCOME

BLENDING WORKSHOP



ENJOYMENT OF READING

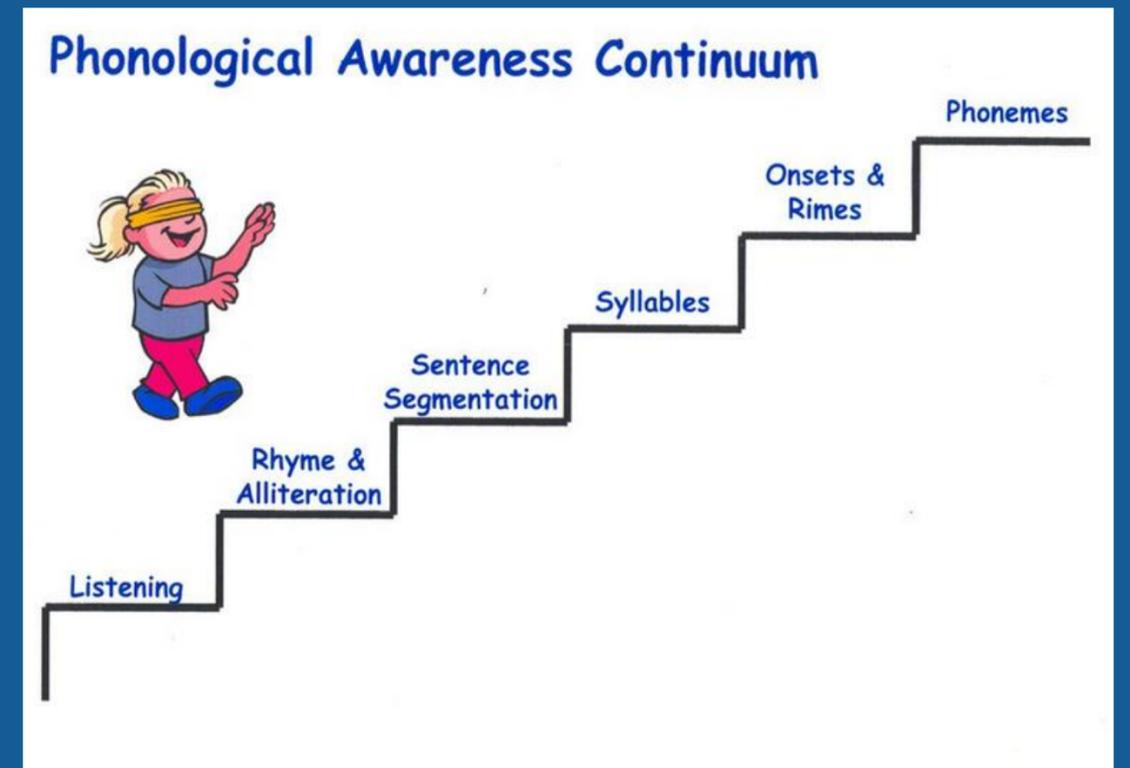
- Child led- personal interests
- Calm environment – cosy corner, reading den
- Reading for a purpose- finding information, recipes, instructions, invitation
- Shared reading- soft toy reading buddy, pet, siblings
- A positive experience- calm, informal, embedded in routine, positive praise





PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Phonological Awareness is the awareness of all of the sounds of language. It's the ability to hear and distinguish sounds.





PHONICS

SINGLE SOUNDS

One letter making one sound.



DIGRAPHS

Two letters in combination making one sound.



It is important for children to be secure in their knowledge of these sounds.



BLENDING

Step 1

Children see the word.

Step 2

Children are encouraged to say the individual sounds in the word.

Step 3

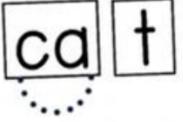
Children are encouraged to merge those sounds together to hear whole words.

Successive blending

We encourage successive blending.

- Start by sounding out the first two letters individually
- Say them together
- Add further sounds

Steps of successive blending

- LEAPING LEARNING
- ① Tap it 
 - ② Blend the first 2 sounds 
 - ③ Add the third sound 
 - ④ Blend it! 

Phonics Confidence

Ensure your child is very confident with their sounds. Continue to revise previous sounds, as well as new sounds. Use sound sheets and sound jotters to help.

Modelling:

Sound out and have your child repeat back to you. Read together to build confidence. Don't be afraid to re-read parts.



Adult -led blending:

Child listens to the adult sounding out sounds within a word and the child blends them together.



Sound Buttons:

Identify single sounds and diagraphs. Marking these can help support your child.

wait

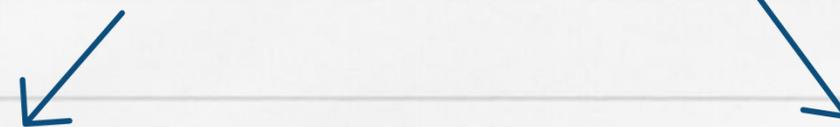


Use Pure Sounds:

Avoid "ih" on the end of a sound. Modelling saying sounds correctly is important. Highlighting how your mouth moves when saying sounds is helpful.



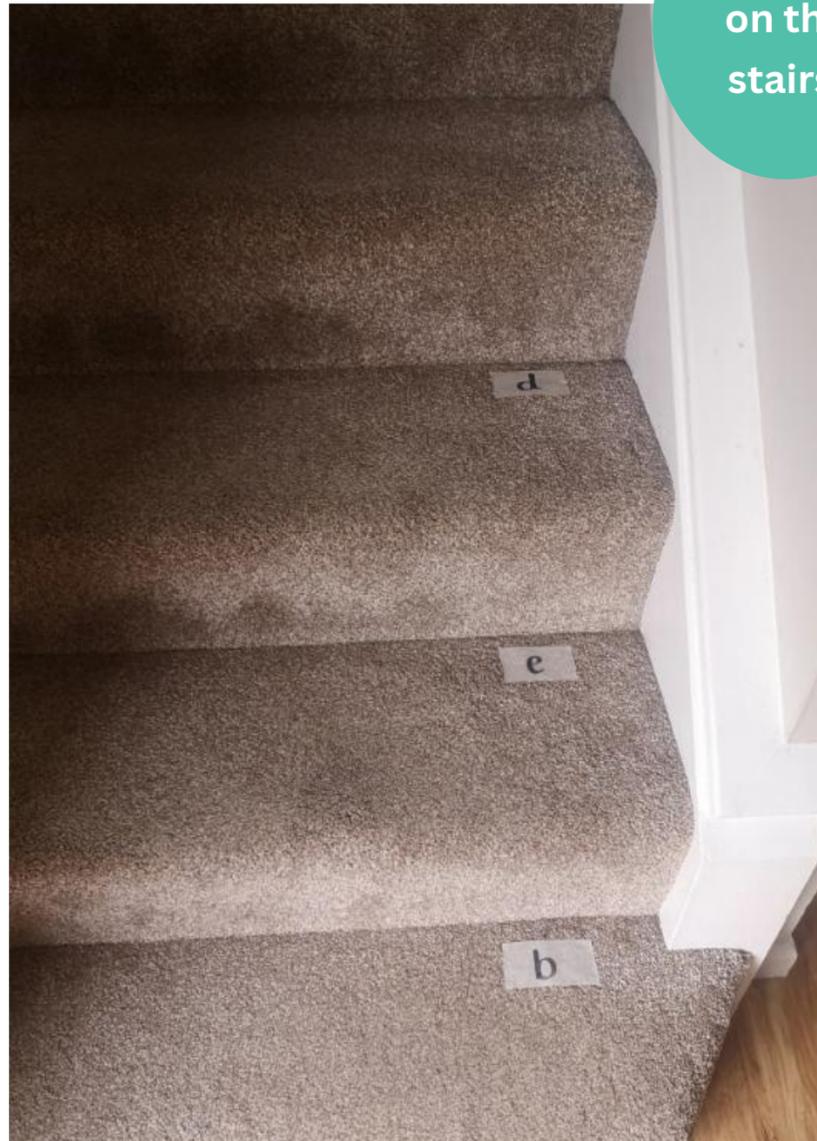
SUPPORTING BLENDING AT HOME





BLENDING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Blending on the stairs.



A shopping list- find the items in the home to put in your shopping bag.



A message from your toys.



Put the plaster on the correct body part.



Play doh sound buttons.





BLENDING ACTIVITIES AT HOME

Sorting
sounds



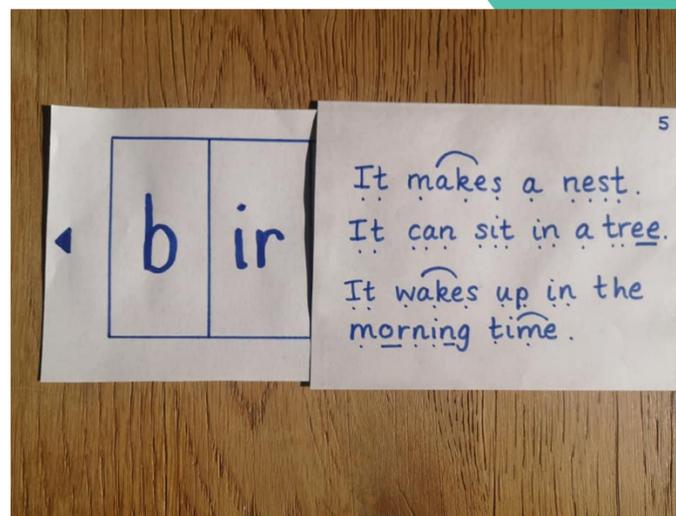
I spy- match
the words to
the items



Find
&
Match

Secret
Words

Using
household
items to
blend.





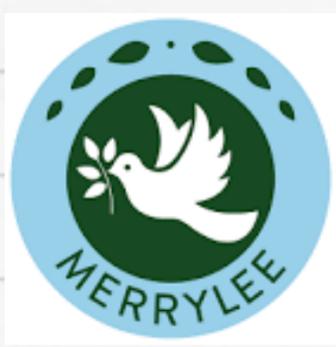
Smooth Blending

Why is Smooth Blending Important?

Smooth blending is essential for developing phonological processing and reading fluency. Without it, children may struggle with longer words and make errors in reading. Correct blending skills help children seamlessly combine sounds, making reading easier and faster.

Why Teach Blending?

Some children struggle to blend smoothly, often breaking words into choppy sounds. This can block their reading progress. Teaching smooth blending helps prevent these difficulties, especially as they encounter more complex words.



Encouraging Smooth Blending

How to Teach Blending Smoothly:

1. Model Blending: Demonstrate how to blend sounds without pauses. If a child forgets a sound, remind them and blend the sounds together again.
2. Use Simple Analogies: Explain blending as “hooking” sounds together, like train cars linked together.
3. Encourage a Breath: Have children take a breath before sounding out a word to help them blend all sounds together in one go.
4. Correct Sound Pronunciation: Ensure sounds aren't distorted when stretched (e.g., don't turn /t/ into /tuh/).
5. Sing the Sounds: For struggling children, have them “sing” the word to prevent segmenting sounds. This method helps them blend more smoothly.
6. Practice Blending Activities: Use simple games to practice blending



Common Words

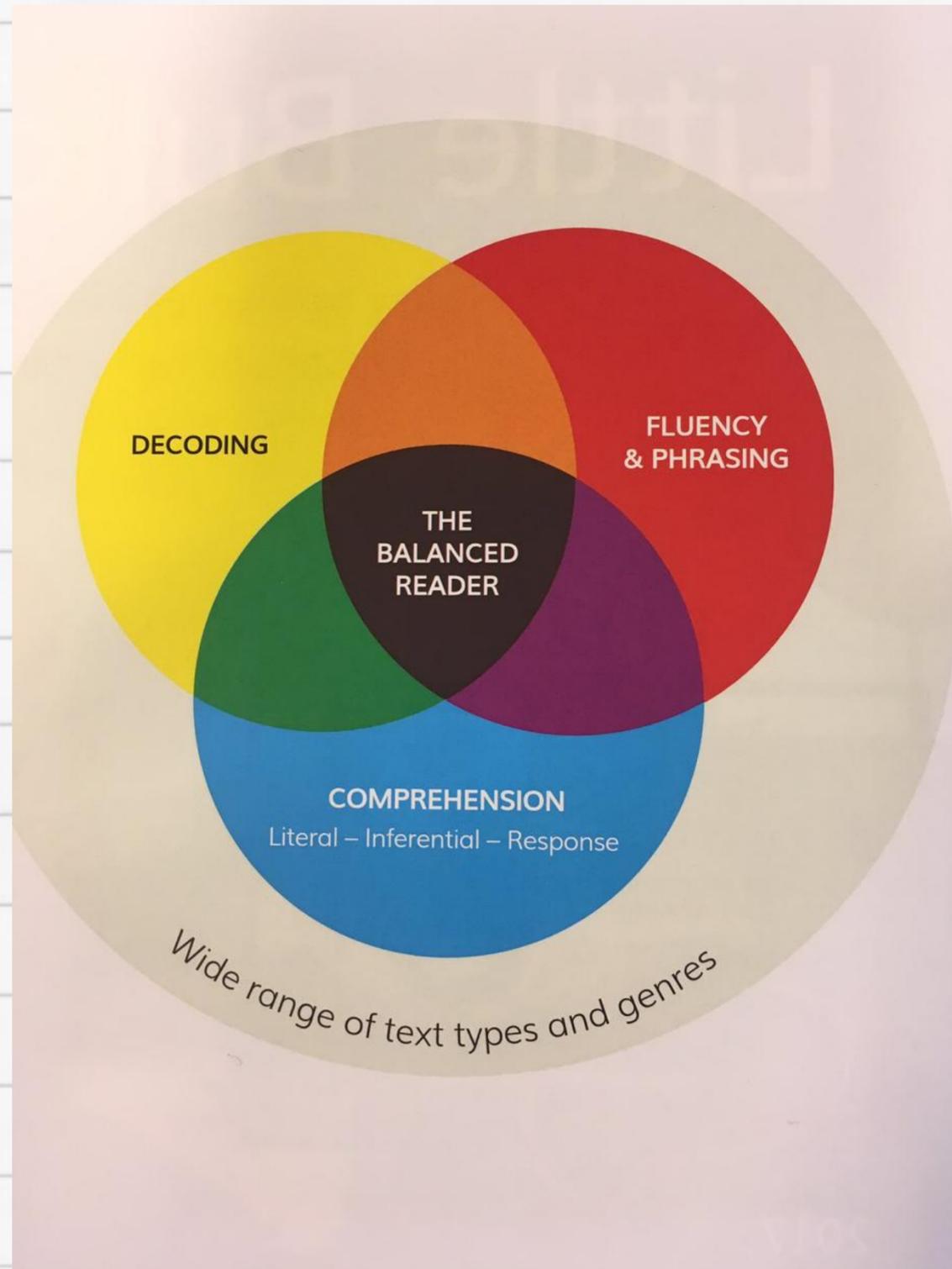
- Can not be sounded out and blended easily
- These are words that we learn by sight.
- Continuous consolidation of these words is beneficial
- Exploring common words in different contexts is important e.g., variety of books, packaging, TV, signs, posters

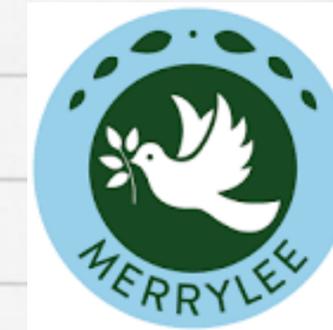




READING IS A JOURNEY

- **Blending is an ongoing development- not a one and done activity.**
- **Keep sessions short and sharp.**
- **You know your child best – we want reading to be an enjoyable experience for you and your child.**





THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Please feel free to explore the activities shared.

Help yourself to handouts.

You are welcome to ask any questions.