

## Phonemic Awareness Instructional Routine: Say It and Move It

Blending and segmentation are the phonemic awareness skills that have the most impact on later reading ability. For this reason, the majority of instruction provided in early elementary involves these two skills. Here are some of the most prevalent practices for blending and segmentation instruction:

### Say It and Move It

1. Give students a "Say It and Move It" card and a set of counters.
2. Students place the counters above the solid line.
3. Say a word with two or three phonemes, such as the word *sip*.
4. Students repeat the word.
5. Students segment the word into phonemes by saying the word slowly and moving the counters. They move the counters down to the arrow as a guide for placement.

**/s/** Students move the counter down to the dot on the arrow.

**/i/** Students move a second counter down to the right of the first counter on the arrow.

**/p/** Students move a third counter down to the right of the second counter on the arrow.

6. After they have moved all three counters to the arrow, students repeat the word while sliding their fingers below the counters in a left-to-right sequence. (Variation: Students repeat the word while sliding all of the counters in one continuous motion across the arrow in a left-to-right sequence.)
7. Continue with this procedure using other words with two or three phonemes.
8. Variations:  
Substitute letters for counters.  
Begin by presenting only one letter with blank counters. Students place the letter where they hear that sound.  
For example, the letter **a** and two blank counters are used to segment and blend these words: **at, fat, as, sat, map, am**.  
Additional letters are added as other letter-sound correspondences are learned.

Adapted from Blachman, B. A., Ball, E. W., Black, R., & Tangel, D. M. (2000). Road to the code: A phonological awareness program for young children. Baltimore: Brookes; Neuhaus Education Center (1992). Reading readiness. Bellaire, TX: Author. All rights reserved. 1-713-664-7676. [www.neuhaus.org](http://www.neuhaus.org)

**Say It and Move It Card**

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