

## BUILDING WORDS

In Building Words, each sound in a word is merged successively as in /m/, /me/ (short vowel sound), /met/. This is a good training technique for blending as it avoids the need to keep a string of isolated sounds in memory.

### Warm Up



The following riddles will get students attending to, and holding, information in memory. “I begin with the same sound as tub. You play with me. What am I?” (toy). “I am an animal that slithers along the ground. I begin like the word sand. What am I?” (snake). “I am a place where you eat. I begin with the same sound as red. What am I?” (restaurant).

### Teaching the Skill



Choose words for this activity where the sounds merge easily. Explain to students that they will have to listen carefully as you build a word bit by bit by saying the sounds. Demonstrate as follows: “Let’s build net”. Stretch out the /n/ sound. Now add the /e/ sound to /n/ as in /nnee/ stretching it out for emphasis. Now add /t/ to /ne/ as in /nneet/. Tell the students they must listen carefully while you build some more words. Try several examples: Sam, fast, lamp, etc.

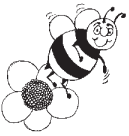
## Practising the Skill



### Small group

Divide the class into small groups and identify a student who has mastered the task to be the leader. Give the leader several picture cards of CVC words. The group, helped by the leader, names the picture and practises successive blending.

## Activities for Mastery



- Repeat the activity but without saying the word first. The students have to identify the word you build.
- As you print each letter of a word on the chalkboard, students say the sounds successively. For example print: l, lo, log.
- Give several students cards with letters on them. As you say a sound, the student with that letter stands at the front of the class. As you add the next sound, the student with that card joins the first student. And so on. Be sure to merge the sounds successively as in Teaching the Skill.

## Testing Mastery



The teacher segments a word into sounds and asks each student individually to identify the word.