

Parent's Guide for At Home Build-A-Word Activity

Modeled after Dr. Marnie Ginsberg's [*Reading Simplified: Introduction to Switch It.*](#)

Materials:

word list, mat

Tech option [Word Work Mat- Beginner app](#)

No tech option [Student Word Work Mat](#)

Preview word list:

target vowels and other letter-sounds.

Have students place the tiles to the side of the mat.

Script

Parent: "Let's play a game.

1. "Listen to the word. Bat."
2. "Stretch the word using your fingers." /b/, /a/, /t/
3. "How many sounds did you hear?"
4. "How many boxes will you use?"
5. "Build the word 'bat' and say each sound as you build it"
6. "Let's check it. Run your finger underneath the letters as you say each sound."
7. "Great, now listen to this word. Mat."
8. "Stretch the word using your fingers." /m/, /a/, /t/
9. "You will only need to change one sound to make this word. Which sound will you change?" Acceptable responses depending on word (**first**, second, last, **beginning**, middle, end, **initial**, medial, final) or they may point or say the sound /b/.
10. Great, switch the sounds and repeat steps 5 and 6.
11. Repeat steps 7-10 with each new word down the list.
12. Put a check by each word on the list the student gets correct and make notes on the errors the student needs more practice with.

If, then

- If your child looks confused, then exaggerate each sound in the word and model the first few words for them.
- If they move the incorrect letter-sound then say, "**That would make the word, ____ . We need the word, ____ .**"
- If they move the correct letter-sound but say a different word then say, "**You picked the correct letter but said the wrong sound.**" Point to the letter-sound they missed and say, "**This is / ____ .**"
- If they place the letter-sound in the wrong place then say, "**You picked the correct letter-sound, but putting it there would make / ____ . We need / ____ .**"
- If they move more than 1 letter-sound then say, "**Go back to the word ____ and let's try again. Remember we only need to change one letter-sound to make the word, ____ .**"