

## Blending Checklist

- Make sure that the sounds (phonemes) are pronounced correctly by children and adults! Some children add /uh/ on the end of a sound (for example, /m/ becomes muh).
- Encourage children to look in a mirror whilst saying the sounds, so that they can focus on the shape that their mouth should be making.
- Do lots of oral blending first, saying the sounds which make up the name of an object (e.g. c-u-p) or giving an instruction (e.g. Stand u-p).
- Ensure that the child can confidently recall their letter sounds. Can they look at the written sound (grapheme) and say the phoneme straight away?
- Start blending with words which have just two sounds, for example, 'i-t'. Once the child can hear that the sounds go together to make a word, you can demonstrate blending with magnetic or wooden letters.
- Try using continuous sounds at the beginning of words, so that the sounds flow easily. Examples are f, l, m, n, r, s, v and z.
- Say the first sound in the word the loudest.
- Say the sounds faster and faster each time, to make hearing the word possible.
- Vary the activities to keep learning fun.
- Teach phonics daily; little and often is key.
- Make learning hands-on and fun!