

## Top tips for teaching

### Skill 3: Blending (for Reading)

Practice your pronunciation – ensure you teach the sound correctly!

#### **1. Auditory Blending (pre-reading)**

- Say the individual sounds in a word for a child to blend together and repeat the whole word to you.

*e.g. Teacher say: s – u – n, Learners respond: sun*

#### **2. Blending**

- Identify each **sound** in the word and mark underneath with a dot (or button) – (Don't forget that a digraph may be 2 letters, but it is one sound!).
- Use your arm to demonstrate blending (See separate video: 'Arm Blending').
- To help learners blend the sounds in the correct order, say the initial sound 'loud and proud', with the following sounds 'quick and quiet'.

#### **3. The Blending song**

- This is an effective way to help children blend the initial sounds in a word and then add on the end sound.

*/s/ and /u/, together make 'su',  
'u', 'su', 'su',  
If you pick a /n/ and put it at the end  
'su' - /n/ makes sun, can you hear it?  
'su' - /n/ makes 'sun'*

*(See separate video: 'The Blending Song').*

#### **4. Play Blending games**

- Mime the 'sound actions' for a safe word. Get the learners to blend the sounds together to find the safe word.  
*(see the 'Miming Sound Actions' video)*
- 'Show me' blending activity: Write and number 4 safe words on the board. Read a word and get children to show you the number related to the word you read, by indicating that number of fingers. *(see the 'Show Me' Blending Activity video)*