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Abstract

Fingerfastspell – a Play to Connect tool has been designed to help young children (nursery to 10++) learn to spell using phonics blending strategy. It is a teaching resource to connect oral blending and segmentation (phonemic awareness skill) to phonic blending which involves the printed words. Research indicates that phonemic awareness is critical in learning to read and write[1]. Students whose teachers spend more than the average amount of instructional time on modeling and reinforcing blending procedures achieve greater than average gains on first and second-grade reading achievements tests[2].

However, some children seem to develop the ability to blend sounds in words naturally whereas other children need to be taught this skill explicitly. *Fingerfastspell* can be used as a model for these children to demonstrate step-by-step how blending and spelling work. The process of sounding aloud the letter sound as the child picks up the corresponding letter tile and putting it in the right sequence in the blending board facilities the visual-auditory-kinesthetic connections. This gives the teachers/parents an opportunity to correct any errors before writing. It helps to imprint the word correctly in the child's visual memory until it becomes an automatic response. Once the child grasps the basic blending strategy, this can be use as a game activity (attached rules of the game).

Fingerfastspell is designed to make teaching for teachers/parents and learning for children, the fun way.

Footnotes: 1. Adams, Marilyn Jager, Phonemic Awareness In Young Children. Paul H. Brookes. Publishing Co., 1998. 2. Rosenshine, B., and R. Stevens, Classroom instruction in Reading. In Handbook of Reading Research, ed. P.D. Pearson, R. Barr, M.L. Kamil and P. Mosenthal. New York: Longman, 1984.