A note to take home

Is your reader ready to blend?



Blending is the moment reading clicks. Your child says each sound, then slides the sounds together to hear a word.



→ **map** *Mmmaaap.*

Signs your child needs blending practice

1. Guesses a word from the picture or the first letter.
2. Says the sounds, m, a, p, but cannot put them together.
3. Reads a word on one page, then not on the next.

This is common in first grade. It is a skill, and skills can be taught.

Try this tonight, 5 minutes

1. Pick a short word, like sun, map or pig.
2. Say it slowly together. Keep your voice going, sssuuunnn.
3. Say it fast. Then say, "Thank you, brain. We did the work."

Want a guided plan at home?

Blend to Read

Four weeks. Twenty short lessons, about 5 minutes a day. Your child hears every sound in Ms. Ashley's recorded voice and practices with picture-based activities, no reading required to start.

readplayatelier.com/blend-to-read

Not sure where to start? Take the free Reading Check.
readplayatelier.com/reading-diagnostic

Shared by your child's teacher: _____

Read. Play. Atelier.
Ashley Testerman, M.Ed. Structured literacy specialist. readplayatelier.com

Free to copy for your classroom.

For first grade teachers

How to use this sheet

You already know which readers are guessing. This page gives their families one clear thing to try tonight, in plain words.

1. Print page 1. It is made to copy well in black and white.
2. Send it home in folders, at conferences, or with progress reports.
3. Write your name on the line so families know it came from you.
4. Use the three signs as a quick talking point when a parent asks, "How can I help?"

Why blending

Blending connects phonemic awareness to decoding. A child who can hear every sound but cannot slide them together will lean on pictures and first letters. That works in early books, then stops working as text gets harder. Short, daily, connected practice at home supports the instruction you are already giving.

About me

I am Ashley Testerman, M.Ed., a structured literacy specialist in New Orleans with 19 years of experience. Read. Play. Atelier. is a structured literacy program that understands how creative children learn.

You may copy page 1 for the families in your classroom. Please do not resell or post this file elsewhere. Share the link instead.