



Aspect 7

Oral Blending and Segmenting

Toy talk

Introduce to the children a soft toy that can only speak in 'sound-talk'. The children see the toy whispering in the adult's ear. To add to the activity, as the toy whispers the adult repeats the sounds, looks puzzled and then says the word straight afterwards. For example: *What would Charlie like for tea today?* The toy speaks silently in the adult's ear and the adult repeats 'ch-ee-se' looking puzzled and then, says with relief 'cheese!' Now invite the children to see if they can speak like the toy: *Do you think you could try to toy talk? Say ch-ee-se:* (the children repeat 'ch-ee-se'). Ask the toy again *What else would you like?* Be careful to think of items with names of only single syllables (e.g. fish, cake, pie, soup).



I spy

Place on the floor or on a table a selection of objects with names containing two or three phonemes (e.g. zip, hat, comb, cup, chain, boat, tap, ball). Check that all the children know the names of the objects. The toy says *I spy with my little eye a z-i-p*. Then invite a child to say the name of the object and hold it up. All the children can then say the individual phonemes and blend them together 'z-i-p, zip'. When the children have become familiar with this game use objects with names that start with the same initial phoneme (e.g. cat, cap, cup, cot, comb, kite). This will really encourage the children to listen and then blend right through the word, rather than relying on the initial sound.

