Build words with this fun lesson for emergent readers. Using beads and pipe cleaners, your students will enjoy working with manipulatives to create three and four letter words!

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to recognize that a three letter word is made up of three sounds. Students will be able to write three letter CVC words.

Materials and Preparation

- Pipe cleaners (knot one end of the pipe cleaners so beads don’t slide off, 1 per student)
- Beads (at least 3 per student)
- Writing journals or dry erase boards
- Markers

Lesson

Introduction (5 minutes)

- Draw three squares (or circles depending on the shape of your beads) on the board and write the letters B, A, and T in the shapes to form the word bat.
- Tell students that the word is bat and that there are three sounds in the word.
- Cover up all letters except B and say the sound /b/.
- Do the same with the two remaining letters.
Explicit Instruction/Teacher Modeling *(5 minutes)*

- Say each sound again slowly, segmenting each sound.
- As you say each sound, slide a bead onto your pipe cleaner, but keep the beads separated as you place them on the pipe cleaner.
- Repeat saying each sound, having the students say them with you and pointing to the beads that represent the sound.
- Explain that you are going to slide the beads together to form a word.
- As you slide the beads together, say the word slowly, blending the sounds.
- Once the beads are in place, side by side, say the word as you normally would speak it.

Guided Practice/Interactive Modeling *(10 minutes)*

- Repeat the previous procedure for the word *rat*, and have the students do the activity with you.
- As you do the word, have the students place the beads on their own pipe cleaners.
- Once the students have their three beads on the pipe cleaners, repeat the activity using other three letter words.
- Next, have students pair with a partner and share words with three sounds while using their bead slides.

Independent Working Time *(5 minutes)*

- Have students share with the whole class some of the words they came up with during the partnered activity.
- Correct students who may have mistaken a word with more than three sounds by adding beads to your pipe cleaner slide as you say the word slowly.
Extend

Differentiation

- **Enrichment**: Instruct your students to form bead slides for words containing more than three sounds. Give them additional beads to practice this challenge. Encourage your students to use the bead slides for segmenting syllables in multi-syllable words.
- **Support**: Pre-make bead slides for your students, or use larger beads with bigger holes. If your students struggle with isolating sounds, write the letters directly on the beads and limit the words used during practice.

Related Books and/or Media

- **GAME**: Blending Sounds Spelling

---

Review

Assessment *(5 minutes)*

- Walk around the room and observe students in their pairs.
- Instruct your students to write the words they formed in a writing journal or on a dry erase board.

Review and Closing *(10 minutes)*

- Go around the class and have each student give a CVC word and segment the sounds.

Copyright © 2006 - 2015 Education.com, Inc. All rights reserved.

Get more lesson plans at [www.education.com/lesson-plans/](http://www.education.com/lesson-plans/)