

# "Paddle Pop Stick Blending"

I've used this activity with kids who are either NEW to blending or who STRUGGLE with blending.

Glue a vowel card to the end of a paddle pop stick. (Or just write the vowel with permanent marker.) I just used some laminated vowel cards that I had sitting around, & I didn't think to glue them consistently with 'blue' on one end & red on the other! It doesn't seem to matter! I send home the 'base plates' and the 2 vowel sticks in a ziploc bag for the child to practice for homework once I have shown them what to do.

Glue the vowel cards at the opposite ends of the 2 sticks so one stick can be used BEFORE the letters on the 'base plate' and the other stick can be used AFTER the letters on the base plate.

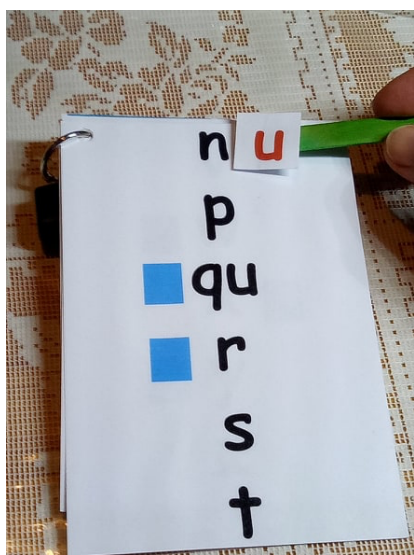
In the picture you will see 2 of each vowel (well....most vowels, I've lost one 'e' stick!! LOL!!) glued to the paddle pop sticks and the blue /u/ is sitting **in front** of the consonant 'v', and the red /u/ is **after** the consonant 'p'.

The 'base plates' just have the consonants typed onto them, vertically down the page. (See page 2 of this resource.) I cut the cards up and put a ring through the corner and I just flip it over to access the next card when the child is ready for it.



## SO HOW DOES THIS WORK?

The child picks up a vowel stick, and puts it next to a consonant and blends the 2 sounds using the **SHORT vowel** sound.



Then they move the stick to the next consonant and blend those 2 sounds. It creates a nonsense 'syllable' BUT I tell them, and the parents, that when a child is sounding out syllables in a word, it often sounds "weird" until you blend the whole word together, so it's good practice to learn to blend sounds together, even if they don't make sense!!

So the child says 'ab', 'ac', 'ad', and so on all the way through the alphabet ---> 'av', 'ax', 'az'.

They then get the other vowel stick with the corresponding vowel, and put it AFTER the consonants, so they would say 'ba', 'ca', 'da'....'ya', 'za'. It's an easy task for little ones as it's not very demanding - only 2 phonemes to remember and blend!

(You could use vowel team cards glued to a paddle pop stick to do the same activity with more advanced kids!)

You'll notice some consonants have a blue square on one side - that's because they are very hard to blend (although kids inevitably like to try! LOL!) so we just skip those! :)

LET ME KNOW IF THIS WORKS FOR YOUR KIDDOS!

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