RECOMMENDATION 3: DECODE, ANALYZE, WRITE, AND RECOGNIZE WORDS How-to Step 1: Blending

Let's review **Building Words with r-Controlled Vowels**. R-controlled vowels are any letter combination that begins with a vowel and is followed by the letter **r**. Common r-controlled vowels include **ar**, **er**, **ir**, **or**, and **ur**. In this activity your child will use letter cards to spell and read words that have r-controlled vowels. Example words are provided for you.



Family Literacy Videos

Let's watch a video of a mom and her son engaging in the **Map a Word** activity. *Review the key points before or after the video. Answer family questions about the video.*

3.1 Map a Word (3:56)

Key Points about the Video

- Mom explains that each box represents one sound. There may be more than one letter in each box.
- Mom encourages her son to say each sound in the word to help him spell the words (for example, /sh//ee//p/, sheep; /l//igh//t/, light; /sh//ě//ll/, shell).
- Mom is patient and encouraging.

Here is a video of a mom and her daughter spelling, blending, and reading words using letter cards. This is the **How Many Words?** activity. *Review the key points before or after the video*. *Answer family questions about the video*.

3.1 How Many Words? (5:17)

Key Points about the Video

- Mom has her daughter spell words with letter cards and write them on the board for another opportunity to practice.
- Mom gives hints to determine which words to spell (for example, "Sometimes I like to make the ending of the word -at and then change the beginning letter to see how many words we can spell.")
- Mom describes the meaning of words that may be unfamiliar to her daughter (for example, raw).

In this video, a mom and her son read and spell words with r-controlled vowels. *Review the key points before or after the video. Answer family questions about the video.*

3.1 Building Words with r-Controlled Vowels (4:37)

Key Points about the Video

- Mom makes sure that her son knows what r-controlled vowels (ar, er, ir, or, ur) are before beginning the activity.
- Mom uses words in sentences and engages her son in discussions about the meanings of words (for example, **march**, **stern**, **storm**).
- Mom prompts her son by saying individual sounds in words to help him spell the words (for example, "Which two letters say **/ch**/?").