

4. Assessment: Onset, Rime and Blending to Make Words.

Assess the abilities of children to use word making patterns to make and read words. Assess for onset and rime skills; and early blending abilities.

Materials: Phonogram flip booklets and score page.

Procedure: The researcher gives an example-demonstration of making words using onset and rime. The child uses onsets to make new words with the rimes.

1. Say, "We're going to play a kind of game to make words. I will show you how to play. Let us begin with this little booklet." Use the example phonogram flip booklet, **with the rime /it/**.
2. Point at the rime. Say: "The "i" and "t" together make: /it/. /it/. /it/." (Use the local dialectic pronunciation. In Sierra Leone, the short /i/ in English words usually makes an /ee/ sound. Thus words like "fit" and "sit", are pronounced: /feet/ and /seet/.
3. Researcher folds back the blank right flap to show the "s" on the page under it.
 - Say: "If we put an "s" in front of "it" we get the word, /sssss – it/: "sit!"
 - Say it again, tracking under the letters: "s-it."
4. Researcher folds back the page with the "s." The letter "b" is now standing in front of the "it".
 - Say, "If we put a "b" in front of "it" we get the word /b/, /b/, /b/ ... "bit!"
 - Say it again, tracking under the letters: "b-it."
 - Do this similarly with /f/.

The example is complete. Now the assessment begins.

5. Researcher picks up the next phonogram-flip booklet, /ed/. Say, "Now you will do it!"
6. Point to the letters of the rime /ed/. Say, "See the letters "e" and "d?" They make the sound /ed/, /ed/."
7. Fold back the blank flap and show the "b". (Do not say the name or make the sound of the letter.)
8. Say: "If we put this letter in front of /ed/, what word do we get? Wait 5 seconds. No matter what the child's answer is, say, "Thank you. Here is the next one. If we put this letter in front of /ed/ what word do we get?"

Go through each letter of the sequence for this phonogram and the other two phonogram flip booklets. The three sets are:

- Assess with onsets: "b", "m", "h", and "c" for the rime "-at".
- Assess with onsets: "s", "w", "n" and "gr" for the rime "-eed".
- Assess with onsets: "s", "p", "t", and "b" for the rime "-in".

If the child does not attempt any onset and rime combinations from the first set (/at/), Say "Thank you. Let's try something else!"